

Patient hunters of IRA killers play a waiting game

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

HUNTING terrorists is a game for the patient and the lucky. Few policemen are prepared to forecast how long it could take before Ian Gow's killers appear in court. After 20 years of Irish terrorist attacks investigators on both sides of the Irish Sea acknowledge that it can be years before suspects are tracked down and even longer before they can be questioned.

In the past ten years English courts have sentenced at least 16 Irish republican terrorists and their aides to lengthy sentences in cases sometimes brought years after the

event. The files in Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch are studded with suspects detectives would like to interview.

Anti-terrorist officers can claim convictions for the series of IRA attacks launched at the start of the 1980s, including the bombing of the Chelsea barracks. They caught the bomber behind the Hyde Park attack on a cavalry troop in 1982 and the man who laid the bomb in the Grand hotel in Brighton in 1984.

Quartermasters, fixers and suppliers have been trapped. Others are still free or convicted for some, but not all, the offences police believe that they committed.

Good intelligence or detection lies behind some convictions. On other occasions the terrorists have been careless. Buried arms dumps have been found by the public, revealing evidence including fingerprints.

Police say their performance against the terrorists cannot be judged by convictions alone. Improvements in areas of evidence gathering such as fingerprint detection have led to the identification of terrorists who remain out of reach because of difficulties such as extradition problems. Even in Northern Ireland, where the RUC and the army have built up a legendary intelligence system and have great technical assistance,

major cases remain unsolved at least on paper. Nobody has been charged with the murder of 15 people in a Belfast bar in 1971, the killing of 18 soldiers at Warrenpoint, Co. Down, the murder of Lord Mountbatten in 1979, and the bombing in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, on Remembrance Sunday 1987, in which 11 died.

Over the past two years the IRA active service units in Britain have been involved in 17 attacks. In 1989 alone the RUC had to contend with 224 bombings, 62 murders by gun or bomb and 108 attacks on police stations. Detectives face tight-knit communities and terrorists with a lifetime of

experience in evading capture. In Britain the terrorists should be on the defensive, unable to rely on a sympathetic population. They have learnt lessons from their losses over the years. More than 110 republican terrorists have been convicted on the mainland since 1969.

No bombing team is going to repeat the mistake of the IRA bombing team in 1973 which attacked the Central Criminal Court and then turned up at Heathrow booked on a flight home. Trials over the past few years have been studied for details of how the IRA men were caught and what methods the police used in their

investigations. The IRA has tightened its security to prevent leaks so that each unit operating in Britain is self-supporting, carrying on operations without contact with any high command.

In the past year, as the attacks have increased, Scotland Yard has reviewed the operation of the anti-terrorist branch and the Irish desk in Special Branch and concluded there is little more that can be done. The liaison with the RUC and MI5 is continuous and the evidence-gathering machinery well oiled. Much now depends on the public's alertness, and luck.

Letters, page 11

Judges back new rules for funding of poll tax

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE system of financing local government introduced to underpin the poll tax received a double endorsement from the High Court yesterday.

The court upheld the right of Chris Patten, the environment secretary, to base grant calculations on a per capita basis rather than on the needs of an individual council.

The issue has been central to the debate about the method used to arrive at standard spending assessments for councils against which overspending is measured when ministers decide which authorities should be charge capped.

The per capita formula is also used for the allocation of central government grant and anomalies created by the system have been blamed for wide variations in poll tax levels between neighbouring councils. In a second ruling

the court confirmed Mr Patten's powers to "ring fence" council housing accounts to prevent cross subsidy from poll tax to rents.

The rulings come less than a month after the House of Lords upheld Mr Patten's power to cap councils for exceeding government spending targets.

In the first case, Avon county council argued that the minister's failure to take into account its actual needs had led to £2.3 million shortfall in the element of its central grant for police costs.

It described as perverse Mr Patten's decision to base the grant calculation on population only, disregarding the numbers of police and traffic wardens employed in its area by the combined Avon and Somerset force.

The court was told that under the old rating system grant was based on population and police numbers. Although the grant no longer took account of police numbers the contribution required from the council was still calculated on the old basis. The new system meant that Avon poll tax payers had to pick up the bill for the shortfall while Somerset had seen its grant rise above the level it enjoyed under the old system.

Lord Justice Farquharson and Mr Justice Nolan said a solution to the dispute could be found only by Parliament. Where a minister had reached a fully-informed decision, the courts could only intervene if the decision was perverse and of outrageous character.

Mr Justice Nolan said: "The unfair burden which is being borne by the charge-payers of Avon, and the unfair benefit which is being enjoyed by the charge-payers of Somerset, result from a conflict of administrative decisions each of which is lawful."

In a separate case, the same judges refused to declare unlawful new housing subsidy rules introduced by the government. Greenwich council had accused Mr Patten of underestimating the amount it spent on repair and maintenance by £8 million a year when allocating subsidy to its "ring fenced" housing account.

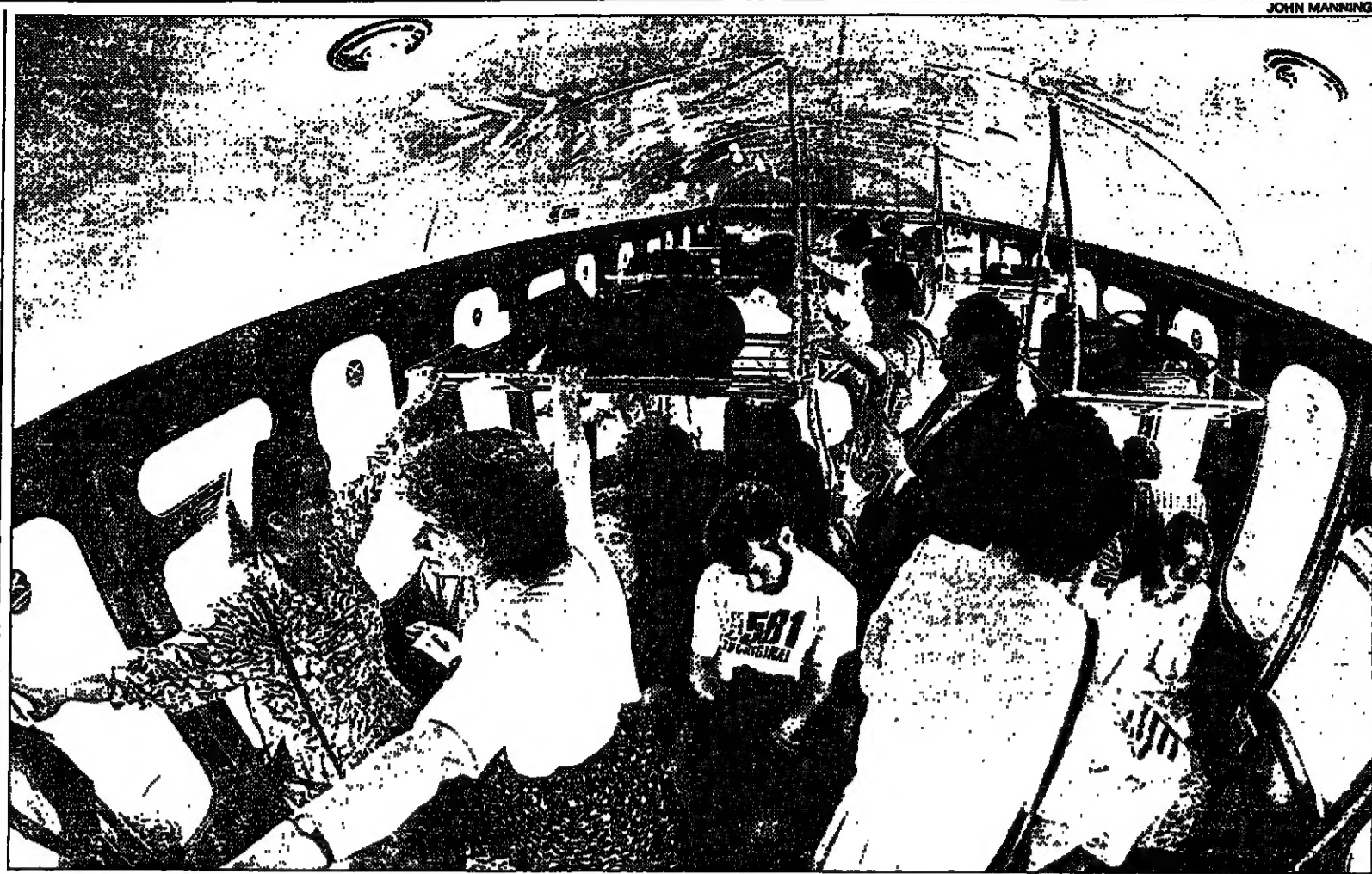
Under the new system there are restrictions on the amount of capital a council may spend and Greenwich said the government had failed to take account of repairs financed in the past from capital expenditure, a practice now banned.

The judges ruled that Mr Patten had been acting within the "remarkably wide discretion" given to him by the 1989 Local Government and Housing Act.

In another development yesterday, a nun won her fight for exemption from paying the poll tax in one of the first cases of its kind. Sister Carmel Bateson challenged a ruling by Bradford council that she should pay the £276 community charge but an appeals tribunal allowed her appeal in a deferred decision.

Local campaigners have asked the police to investigate the running of a council's direct labour organisation which has made a £1.6 million loss. Poll tax payers are expected to have to make good at least part of the deficit run up by the now defunct Stroud district council organisation.

Today, as part of her 90th birthday celebrations, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother returns to the area she so frequently visited at the height of Hitler's bombing in her Hartnell collection of dusty blues, pinks and



Hanging on: Passengers on the 7.48am Dartford to Charing Cross endure what is said to be the worst train journey on Network SouthEast

Promises fail to ease agony on the 7.48

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PASSENGERS using the peak period commuter trains in north Kent see British Rail at its worst. For these travellers, forced to put up with late, overcrowded and dirty trains, promises of great changes in the years ahead cut little ice.

Boarding the 7.48am Dartford to Charing Cross service causes little serious discomfort, assuming the train has not been delayed or cancelled. The vintage slam-door rolling stock may be 35 to 40 years old, but at least seats are available.

A few steps along the line, it is a very different story. All seats are now occupied, so that newcomers have to squeeze past seated passengers in the hope of finding a section of unoccupied aisle, and, if they are lucky, something to hang onto for

the rest of the journey. David Goodchild, a British Telecom employee, was less than impressed with the service. "It's simply terrible," he said. "Why should I have to pay £900 for an annual season ticket and then be expected to put up with trains that are dirty, old, and hardly ever on time?"

Network SouthEast, the British Rail sector responsible for providing the service, agrees with him, but points out that it carries an average of 473,000 commuters into central London every day. That is 50,000 more than it carried in the early 1980s.

Kevin Wormsley, who commutes between Dartford, Waterlool and Kingston, was unmoved by the network's apologies. "I know there is a shortage of rolling stock, but there is no excuse for cancelling trains without giving passengers advance warning."

It's just poor management. BR has suffered from it for years, and no one has ever done anything about it. We'll have to see if the new chairman can improve things. But I don't hold out much hope."

Neil Crawley, who works in Knightsbridge, complained bitterly about the cost. "My season ticket has gone up from £880 to £968 in a year. I wouldn't be able to afford it without the interest-free company loan."

Network SouthEast said that new Networker trains were on order and platforms were being lengthened to take 12-carriage trains. The new rolling stock is not expected to be in operation before 1992, however, and in the meantime passengers will have to grin and bear it.

Leading article, page 11

Social security claimants 'penalised'

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

SOCIAL security claimants are being unfairly penalised by high poll tax charges and escalating water bills, the government's social security advisers said yesterday.

A critical report from the Independent Social Security Advisory Committee also says recent benefit changes may be contributing to increasing homelessness and argues that the social fund is inadequate as a safety net for the poor. It shows too that official unemployment figures may be deceptive because in the past nine years 500,000 people have moved from unemployment benefit to invalidity benefit, having been judged medically unfit for work.

The document, which analyses changes in the benefit system since April 1988, suggests that the government has failed to give benefit claimants enough compensation to pay 30 per cent of their poll tax. Although £1.30 has been included in income support rates to cover the cost, the committee says that where poll tax rates are above the average claimants may have to pay up to 70p extra a week.

Peter Barclay, the committee's chairman, said the way in which the government had calculated compensation was extremely dangerous. In addition those on income support were severely hit by increasing water rates. Mr Barclay said. Before 1988 those on benefit were exempt from water rates but since the changes, although some compensation is included in general income support rates, they have had to pay the full costs.

With water rates rising by 15.73 per cent last April, compared to a benefit uprating level of 7.6 per cent, many claimants face severe difficulties, he said.

The report calls for a study on the effect of benefit changes on homelessness. It argues that delays in assessing housing benefit can result in people being turned out of accommodation. Local authorities are expected to pay housing benefit within 14 days of a claim, but delays of several months have been reported. The heaviest criticism however is reserved for the government's social fund. Updated figures show 57 per cent of applications for community care grants were rejected last month, with refusal rates varying from 15 to 71 per cent. Extra cash should go to benefit offices with the highest demand, the report says.

Social Security Advisory Committee, Seventh Report 1990 (Stationery Office, £6.50)

No place to go, page 16

Minister wrong to deny women benefits access

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

TONY Newton, the social security secretary, was wrong in denying five women access to benefits because they were over 60. The Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Evelyn Thomas, of Caldicot, Gwent, and four other women were forced to give up work through ill health or because they had to care for severely disabled dependents. However, they were prevented from claiming invalid care allowance or severe disablement allowance because they were over 60 and there was an upper age limit of 60 for women and 65 for men in line with state pension ages.

The court ruling means that hundreds of other women will now get such benefits for an additional five years.

Lord Justice Slade said: "The mere fact that pensionable age is 60 for women cannot possibly render it necessary and appropriate to disqualify such women from the [non-contributory] benefits of severe disablement allowance or invalid care allowance when men of 60 would be eligible to receive such benefits if they satisfied the qualifying conditions."

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted. Lawyers said, however, that if the Law Lords agreed with the appeal court's decision the ruling would open the door for many women between the ages of 60 and 65 to mount

claims. It could also entitle some who have been refused allowances to receive them.

The Equal Opportunities Commission, which welcomed the ruling, said that the use of the state pension ages to deny women access to the benefits was a breach of a European directive on statutory social security which requires that men and women be treated equally.

Alan Lakin, the commission's chief legal officer, said: "This is a great judgment for the carers and many women in a similar situation to Mrs Thomas. It shows yet again the extent of the sex discrimination and confusion, which flow from the different state pension ages."



Slade: "Inappropriate to disqualify women"

Prince entertains award winners

By CHARLES KNEVITT

THE Prince of Wales gave a garden party at Highgrove, his home in Gloucestershire, yesterday for the 16 winners of this year's Community Enterprise Awards. He was unable to present the prizes at the award ceremony in London two weeks ago.

The prince is patron of the scheme, sponsored by *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Business in the Community, and invited the winners to meet him while he convalesces after breaking his arm. Among those he met was Alice Beck, aged nine, from the Shute Play and Conservation Project, Devon, who also broke her arm in June.

A delegation of six Hungarian entrepreneurs, government and business leaders was also introduced to the Prince. They are in Britain on a three-day fact-finding tour, organised by *The Times* and supported by the Know-How Fund of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Today they will visit two of the award-winning projects in south London before returning to Budapest.

The Page II Steel Orchestra, from Notting Hill, west London, entertained the 65 guests and presented a steel "pan" (drum) to Prince William and Prince Harry, who were too embarrassed to try it, despite an improvised lesson from one of the younger members of the orchestra.

Rivers may be opened to all by court ruling

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Court of Appeal decided yesterday that the Rights of Way Act applies to rivers as well as to footpaths, in a judgment likely to bring strong opposition from fishermen, conservationists and landowners.

The decision opens the way for the undisturbed upper stretches of rivers in England and Wales, whether the banks are privately owned or not, to be used by boat owners, canoeists or even hovercraft, if it can be proved that at any time there was unchallenged navigation for 20 years.

Its implication for anglers is that any stretch of water used solely for fishing, including famous trout streams such as the Test or the Itchen, might now be used by water craft of all kinds, as might a stretch of river which is being specifically protected, and kept undisturbed, in a nature reserve. Riparian owners will no longer necessarily be able to specify the use to which their waters should be put.

The decision came as part of a long-running legal battle over public access to 40 miles of the Derwent in North Yorkshire, between a group of landowners, including the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, who wish to keep the river undisturbed, and the Yorkshire Derwent Trust, which wishes to open it up. Lords Justices Slade, Balcombe and Bingham had allowed the appeal against

a 1988 High Court ruling in which Mr Justice Vinelott upheld arguments by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and individual riverside landowners, that laws contained in the 1932 Rights of Way Act, conferring public rights of way over land after continued periods of use by the public, did not apply to rivers.

The appeal decision was immediately hailed as an important victory by Graham Smith, the Yorkshire Derwent Trust chairman, although his group now faces the prospect of a further court battle to prove that the public have been using the relevant stretch of the Derwent for 20 years.

Last night David Lloyd-Williams of Malton town council, which helped to bring the action, said: "We have conclusive evidence that there have been unchallenged navigation rights for over 20 years — centuries in fact — in the past."

The ruling was greeted with concern by the Salmon and Trout Association, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and the Country Landowners' Association. "If this alters the control riparian owners have over their waters, it is indeed a matter for concern," said James Ferguson, Salmon and Trout Association director. "When anglers pay a fee to be able to fish, they expect to be able to do so undisturbed. We shall be studying the implications very carefully."

Tim Sands of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation said the case was so significant that the society would support a further appeal by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to the House of Lords. "We want to keep a balance between the public enjoyment of rivers and conservation, and this decision shifts the balance," he said. "Some areas of rivers need to be quiet and undisturbed and if this is now put at risk conservationists should be worried."

Support for a further appeal was also being considered yesterday by the Country Landowners' Association.

Whips had alerted MPs on bombs

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

ALL MPs were urged only 10 days before the IRA murder of Ian Gow to be vigilant in their personal security and advised of the availability of special mirrors to check for bombs under their cars.

The special note on security was included in the last all-party whips' notice sent to MPs and it highlighted the threat from terrorist activity and the need for MPs to take particular care when undertaking routine activities in their constituencies.

It also offered MPs the opportunity to watch a 10-minute video providing advice on how to check a vehicle for possible explosive devices and told them a telescopic mirror for examining underneath a car could be bought for about £40.

Kevin McNamara, the shadow Northern Ireland secretary, said last night that he had telephoned to order his mirror and been told that none had yet been distributed to MPs, although members had asked for them. However, Mr McNamara said that it would be giving in to terrorists if MPs were forced to "surround themselves with barbed wire and security men."

He added: "What people have to do is to take proper and prudent precautions and listen to the advice given to them by police and the security forces."

Meanwhile opposition parties were urged not to contest the forthcoming by-election in Eastbourne as a gesture against the assassins of Mr Gow. Robert Rhodes James, Conservative MP for Cambridge, said he had felt that after the murder of Sir Anthony Berry in the Brighton bombing the subsequent by-election in Southgate should not have been contested.

He said this would have followed the precedent in the war when there was an agreement between the parties that when an MP was killed in action, the other parties did not contest the by-election. Mr Rhodes James said it would be appropriate not to contest Eastbourne "not only as a mark of respect to Ian Gow's memory, but also as a gesture against his murderers."

The Liberal Democrats refused to comment on the suggestion, but sources in the Labour party suggested that in not contesting the by-election, opposition parties would be allowing the terrorists to interfere with the democratic process and providing them with a further propaganda victory.

Interviewed on ITN's *News at Ten* last night Mrs Thatcher said the fact that the IRA was going for soft targets indicated that there had been some success in stopping other terrorist attacks.

Fume deaths

A mother, her daughters aged six and four, and the woman's boyfriend were yesterday found dead in a fume-filled car in Rhymney, Cardiff. Last night police were trying to contact the girls' natural father. They said that a note had been found in the car and they were not seeking anyone in connection with the deaths. The woman lived with her boyfriend and daughters in the Llaurhymney area of Cardiff.

Air enquiry

Irish aviation experts are investigating an incident involving a helicopter flown by Ciaran Haughey, son of the prime minister, and carrying the jockey Michael Kinane to Dublin from Galway. There was a two-hour break in communications after Mr Haughey made an emergency landing and a search had begun before he made contact. Mr Haughey said it had taken time to find a policeman.

Birds starved

Preliminary tests yesterday to find the cause of death of 400 kittiwakes washed up on the North Yorkshire coast suggested that the birds died of starvation. The bodies have been found over the past two weeks on the shoreline between Filey and Reighton cliffs.

Flight delays

Only 62 per cent of flights from six of Britain's busiest airports left within 15 minutes of their scheduled departure time in the year ending in March, the Civil Aviation Authority said. The average delay on 664,000 flights from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Luton and Stansted was 25 minutes.

By the Times overseas: Australia \$2.70, Canada \$2.70, New Zealand \$2.70, Hong Kong \$2.70, Japan \$2.70, South Africa \$2.70, Singapore \$2.70, Taiwan \$2.70, Thailand \$2.70, USA \$2.70.

By RONALD FAUX

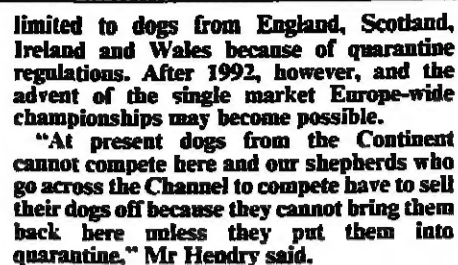
Ronson 'believed deal was legal'

He described Ernest Saunders, Guinness' former chairman, as a star at the time, having restored the firm's fortunes. "He could metaphorically walk on water," Mr. Sherrard said that Mr. Ronson did not have conceived that Mr. Saunders or the stockbroker Anthony Parnes, "a broker himself," were inviting him into a criminal enterprise.

Mr. Saunders, aged 55, Mr. Ronson, Mr. Parnes, aged 45, and the financier Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, variously accused the company of embezzlement, false accounting, and breach of the Companies Act, 1929.

All 2,350 emergency ambulances are to be equipped with defibrillators at a cost of £3.8 million, to save the lives of 500 of heart attack victims, and 50 per cent of ambulance officers will be trained in the use of the machines by the end of the year, Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, said.

The machines monitor the heart rate and can give electric



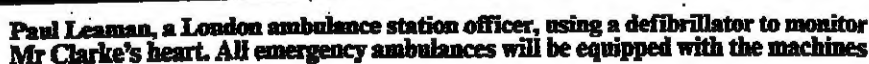
By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT



ment and Brussels that it would remain the sole purchaser of the milk produced by its members and would continue to pay them a price based on the average of the market returns of all milk

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

Among the 23 projects to be funded, particular attention has been paid to documentaries and drama reflecting the



By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

The machines monitor the heart rate and can give electric

and training £300 more than their colleagues. At present, 200 of the 12,000 qualified

ould be jeopardised because
f low morale and staffing
vels.

His appointment is part of the government's response to the report by the House of Lords' science and technology select committee which looked at priorities in medical research.

**By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT**

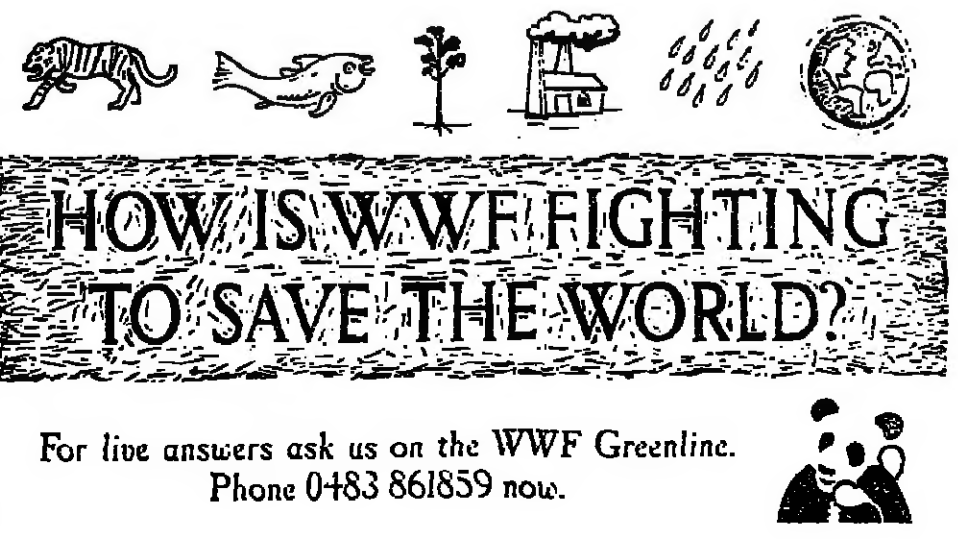
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By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

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Art, music and PE may be dropped for pupils in 14-16 group



MacGregor: "We do not want a straitjacket"

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

ART, music and physical education could be dropped from the national curriculum for pupils aged 14 to 16, John MacGregor, the education secretary, said yesterday.

It was inevitable that some subjects would have to be cut to make room for others such as a second modern language, the classics and economics, Mr MacGregor said at the annual conference in Nottingham of the Professional Association of Teachers. He said that he expected about 85 per cent of lesson time for that age group to be taken up with the

national curriculum, leaving 15 per cent for other subjects. He said: "We do not want a straitjacket that makes it impossible for some pupils to have the flexibility they need. It is not a question of downgrading some subjects but rather of seeing that we do not exclude some subjects altogether."

Mr MacGregor said that he was asking the National Curriculum Council to investigate the circumstances in which some pupils might drop certain subjects. From September 1992 all 14-year-olds will be required to study mathematics, English, science, technology and a modern language until they are 16.

"I have suggested that the council might look particularly at art, music and physical education. This is not in any way to underestimate the value of these subjects," he said. "They are all subjects in which pupils not taking GCSEs would be unlikely to get much lesson time and where there is scope for activity outside the timetable."

Mr MacGregor refused to be drawn on whether pupils would be able to abandon history or geography at 14, but said he was suggesting that combined GCSEs should be offered in some subjects.

John Horn, president of the secondary heads association, said it was horrific to suggest that

physical education should be dropped at 14 and left to out-of-school activities. He said that art and music could be lost by some pupils but that the government was still "hooked" on the problem of history and geography.

Peter Dawson, general secretary of the Professional Teachers' Association, said: "There is no question of these proposals weakening the national curriculum. They simply make it workable."

Later, Mr MacGregor drew loud applause from the 220 delegates when he said that teachers could not act alone in ensuring orderly classrooms, good discipline and regular school attendance. "They

are entitled to support and active co-operation from the whole community and particularly parents," he said. "It is with parents that the first responsibility lies. That responsibility includes bringing up their children to value education and instilling in them the importance of proper standards of behaviour."

Mr MacGregor repeated his demand that local authorities should release more cash to allow schools to run their own affairs. Figures showed that the authorities held back between 15 per cent and 27 per cent of money due to schools in order to run central services. The implications for in-

dividual school budgets were substantial, Mr MacGregor said. If one of the authorities which had held back 27 per cent had retained only the national average of 20 per cent, each school would have benefited by about an extra £37,000.

Mr MacGregor said that he had experience of the failure of schooling within the education department and had sent back incorrectly spelt letters to be retyped. "It is no good producing children who cannot spell and who cannot get good jobs. Sloppiness in spelling does not help you in your careers and employers are right to complain if they have to put this right."

Beer duty levy system criticised as unwieldy

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

A CUSTOMS and Excise system of levying beer duty that is more than 100 years old has been criticised as being inflexible and unwieldy in a National Audit Office (NAO) report published. The report shows that Britain has the third highest beer duty in the EC.

The duty in Britain stands at 21p a pint, compared with 34p in Ireland, 25p in Denmark, 5p in Italy, 1p in Spain and 0.5p in France. The duty raises more than £2 billion a year, which forms 1½ per cent of government revenue.

The audit office cannot make recommendations on tax policy, but clearly favours introducing a beer tax on the end product, as with wine and cider. Beer duty is now assessed at an early stage of the brewing process by tests on the quantity and original gravity of "worts" — the stage before adding yeast ferments the liquid into beer.

Brewers get a 6 per cent wastage allowance for later stages of the process, plus allowances for spillage or returns. Last year this saved £125 million in duty. This allowance was fixed in 1880, however, and the audit office says that it may be generous for some brewers when com-

pared to actual wastage. The report says that Customs and Excise does not have detailed information on the wastage rates and that the NAO could not get evidence from brewers' records to establish these.

The audit office says that the present duty system is inflexible and unwieldy, with a rigidity that makes it difficult to accommodate technical innovations. Smaller brewers and the Campaign for Real Ale believe that the 6 per cent wastage allowance discriminates against smaller brewers, who have higher wastage rates.

They have also said that the early duty point causes cash problems and is detrimental to the quality of beer, pushing brewers to speed up the process.

No clear recommendations have been made by the audit office, because Customs and Excise has not yet announced the result of a consultation process on the structure of beer duties in the 1990s and beyond. The NAO says, however, that Customs and Excise cannot determine wastage rates and that the methods of measuring specific gravity of beer are unreliable and need overhauling.

While the NAO shares the preference by Customs and Excise for an end product duty, emphasising its operational advantages, it admits that such a system could also increase the number of premises which would need to be monitored and "involve a greater revenue risk from the circulation of a larger amount of beer upon which duty had not been paid".

The report says that the 21p duty on a pint of beer represents 70 per cent of its production costs and that in 1990 there were about 1,500 commercial brewers with an annual production of 37 million barrels. Production is now 36 million barrels, with just 220 brewers.

The report also says the six largest brewers account for 75 per cent of UK beer production and that larger production has increased from less than 10 per cent of all beer made in 1971, to about 50 per cent. An end product duty would mean the unwieldy system of allowances and reliefs could be eliminated, reduce official interference in day-to-day brewing operations and improve cash flow for the industry, it says. Beer duties could be brought into line with other taxes, and be based on commercial records rather than physical inspections.

HM Customs and Excise: Beer Duty, National Audit Office, HC 601 (Stationery Office £3.95).

Post Office 'should sell tickets for concerts'

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would require the Post Office to expand into new services, including currency exchange and ticket sales. It would keep the letters monopoly, but firms guaranteeing on delivery times would be required and services would be overseen by a strengthened consumer body.

Labour's ideas for putting the Post Office at the head of its strategy for a partnership between the private and public sectors were outlined by Douglas Henderson, the party's trade and industry spokesman, launching a consultation document yesterday.

Labour would require management and unions to improve efficiency with measures including using new technology to improve sorting methods, the introduction of modern working methods, and a search for new business taking advantage of the growth in mail order services expected after 1992. Restrictions on the Post Office raising funds on the open market would be eased.

The letters service monopoly was regarded as essential: its nationwide network avoided duplication of effort and resources; the monopoly allowed the cross-subsidisation of socially-necessary but unprofitable services; and if it was abolished, private companies would cream off the lucrative inter-city routes leaving rural areas with a worse service. But firm guarantees on next-day deliveries would be expected.

Mr Henderson said Labour would not set a target, but improvements were needed. The service could diversify and become more "user-friendly" with more investment in such consumer services as post boxes.

The most visible changes would come from the counters services, which should extend opening times and develop a "social dimension" in joint ventures with organisations such as citizens advice bureaux. Mr Henderson envisaged post offices acting as currency exchanges and selling tickets for rock concerts and football matches.

The parcels service should consider teaming up with private companies to seek new business on the Continent.



Autumn in high summer: Dean Butters, a gardener, sweeps up as the dry weather brings an early leaf fall to Greenwich Park in London

Drought brings an early autumn

By ALAN HAMILTON

TWO consecutive summers of heat and drought appear to have brought an early autumn to Greenwich Park in south-east London. Trees in the royal park are shedding leaves in quantities normally expected in mid-October.

Horse chestnuts and beeches are already beginning to lose their high summer green for reddish-brown and even gold. The abnormally heavy shed of leaves, catkins and other arboreal debris is keeping the gardeners busy clearing the avenues.

Paul Kemp, Greenwich's foreman gardener, recalls that in February there was so much rain that staff were pumping excess floodwater from the paths and avenues. "But you only need a few dry weeks, and it soon evaporates. Two dry summers in a row mean that the ground here is extremely hard and dry."

As with people, the very young and the very old are the first to suffer in adverse conditions. The trees which are turning early are chiefly those over 50 years old, and many of the young limes, beeches and horse chestnuts planted last autumn have not survived. Blackheath, which borders the park, has rarely looked so barren.

"If this climate continues, many more of the bigger trees will begin to suffer," Mr Kemp said. "We wouldn't want too many years in a row like this one."

Group aims to make worship more exciting

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

SENIOR clerics in the Church of England have formed a group which will try to help improve the understanding of worship.

The liturgical experts are taking on a world where, despite frequent steps to augment the 1662 Book of Common Prayer with alternative services in modern forms of language, many former churchgoers still dismiss services as boring.

The new group, Praxis, will hold seminars and conferences to discuss the different forms of worship used in the church. The Rev Michael Perham, the chairman of Praxis and a member of the Liturgical Commission of the Church of England, said: "If you ask most people what church worship is like, their response tends to be that they think it is boring."

He said this was either because they were bored by the services when they went to church or because they remembered dull services from school days. "We have to help people to find worship that really does excite and attract and hold them."

He said Praxis would work mainly in London and the southeast, and its first major conference, at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, in November, would examine *The Promise of His Glory*, a report of the Liturgical Com-

mission, which provides new services and prayers for the advent and Christmas season. According to its introduction the report is a collection of services that "does not rely on a series of ancient symbolic rites" such as ashing, the palm procession, footwashing and the ceremonies of the cross.

Instead, the introduction says, it "should provide encouragement to those who regard the productions of liturgical experts as no more than rather fundamentalist exercises in liturgical archaeology." Praxis, which takes its name from the Greek word for action, would like to tempt people who only go to church at Christmas to attend services for the rest of the year. Mr Perham said: "They like it, but go away and do not come back for a year." Services should be attractive, he added. The group, whose members include Anglo-Catholics, liberals and evangelicals, will also attempt to find a balance between uniformity and diversity in church services.

"One of the big debates in the church is the extent to which the Church of England is departing from the old idea of common prayer," Mr Perham said. At one time, worshippers could enter any parish church on a Sunday and find a service they were familiar with.

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Prisons chief 'sought riot news blackout'

By a STAFF REPORTER

A PRISON service manager sought a blackout on news of a jail riot because he feared an epidemic of disturbances, the Woolf enquiry was told yesterday.

John Hunter, deputy director of the prison department's south-west region, called for the news blackout when rioting broke out at Cardiff prison on April 8. Mr Hunter told the judicial enquiry into recent prison riots that he made the request to Brian Ernes, deputy director general of the prison service.

At the time, Mr Hunter was coping with a riot at Dartmoor which had started the day before. The riot at Strangeways prison, Manchester, was still in progress. Mr Hunter said he asked for the news blackout because he was "conscious of the contagious nature of these incidents".

He added: "I was concerned, with Manchester still running, Dartmoor and now Cardiff, about the prospect of an epidemic of outbreaks, and keeping it a secret from other prisoners might help prevent spreading it." The enquiry by Lord Justice Woolf was told that there was no record of a reply to the request.

The rioting prisoners at Cardiff surrendered during the day but another serious disturbance broke out at Horfield prison, Bristol, that evening. The Bristol incident ended

when prison officers in riot gear moved in. Earlier, the enquiry, sitting in London, was told that a riot at Glen Parva young offenders' centre near Leicester was started by a former Strangeways inmate and a prisoner with a reputation for bad behaviour who shared his cell. Between 50 and 60 remand prisoners took over part of the centre and put up barricades.

John Rumbell, the governor, said that the riot started when an officer was overpowered by two inmates whom he was letting out of their cell for an association period. He said that one was a remand prisoner transferred from Strangeways. The other was one of the centre's own remand prisoners.

David Latham, QC, enquiry counsel, pointed out a reference in a report on Glen Parva by the enquiry's assessors which said that the second prisoner had a bad reputation. Mr Rumbell said that he did not know this at the time. There was no reason to regard a prisoner as a potential trouble-maker just because he came from Strangeways.

The disturbance at Glen Parva ended after negotiations between officers and inmates. Mr Rumbell said he did not think that using force would have been justified.

The enquiry was told that between January and March the number of remand prisoners at Glen Parva increased from 220 to 307. This did not include a contingent of 24 extra inmates from Strangeways, 18 of whom were remand prisoners. The centre was short of 14 uniformed officers on April 1.

Mr Rumbell said that in the days before the riot, which began on a Friday, discontent had been seen in prisoners. There had been intelligence that an incident was likely but it was expected to happen on Saturday or Sunday.

In another development yesterday, the Home Office said it would review safeguards when violent prisoners are allowed home after a campaign by relatives of the victims of the double killer, Keith Ward. Home Office ministers were told that Ward, aged 33, killed his girlfriend Valerie Middleton, with whom he lived, after visiting her on weekend leave while serving a sentence for assaulting her. Ward was jailed for life in March for the murder.

Seven years ago, Ward, from Bradford, West Yorkshire, strangled Julie Stead while he was living with her. He was jailed for four years after the jury accepted a manslaughter plea. The Home Office said yesterday that possible changes could include detailed supervision of a prisoner during the leave period.

Ban on royal book is upheld

A WORLDWIDE ban on the publication of a book by Malcolm Barker, a former Buckingham Palace employee, about life in the royal household was upheld by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court went further by extending the ban to Fleetwood Publications, the Canadian publishers of the book, *Courting Disaster*, to prevent it reaching the public. The worldwide ban was imposed by Mr Justice Wright on Friday after a private hearing.

The book is claimed to disclose details from Mr Barker's time as a clerk to the master of the royal household from 1980 to 1983. The Queen, through Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-general, claims that the book breaches an undertaking of confidentiality signed by Mr Barker when he joined her staff.

In continuing the ban, Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lords Justices Nourse and Parker, said that the book was a flagrant breach of contract. Mr Barker, who lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, accepted the ban in this country but appealed against an extension worldwide.

Lord Donaldson said that before joining the royal household Mr Barker signed a covenant which stated that he would not publish anything about his experiences. He accepted the conditions and was paid for his services.

"It is simply a case of someone who has entered into a covenant which is not limited territorially and not limited in time," Lord Donaldson said.

The orders granted by the judge and approved and extended by the Court of Appeal remain in force until a full hearing of the dispute or any further order. Lord Donaldson said, however, that he thought it inevitable that a permanent injunction would be granted at a full trial because Mr Barker had an unarguable case.

Hosepipe ban

Hosepipe bans were imposed on 250,000 homes in the Sheffield and Barnsley areas yesterday. Officials said that reservoirs supplying the areas had dropped to 61 per cent of normal stock, 10 per cent down on the same time last year. With the continuing warm weather, demand for water had risen by 10 per cent at a time when consumption usually fell as factories closed for holidays.

Rushdie protest

A delegation of British Muslims, including Yusuf Islam, formerly the singer Cat Stevens, is to urge the Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Cairo to widen the campaign against Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses*. The group from the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs wants action to back an earlier resolution calling on the publishers to withdraw it from circulation.

Cliff death fall

A holidaymaker from London died after falling 180ft from a cliff yesterday. Two girls from a nearby holiday camp saw the dying man on rocks near Exmouth, Devon. Police waded out to the man, aged 25, but the incoming tide prevented them from rescuing him. The Exmouth lifeboat brought the man ashore, but he was dead on arrival at hospital. Four play is not suspected.

113th birthday

Charlotte Hughes, the oldest person in Britain, will celebrate her 113th birthday today with a party at her home in Marske, North Yorkshire. Mrs Hughes, a former teacher, said yesterday: "Although my mind is very bright I'm now confined to a wheelchair. A glass of champagne will be my special treat."

Convoy death

An army-motorcycle rider was killed yesterday while escorting a convoy in Devon. Lance Corporal Craig Ironside, who was based with an air ambulance unit in Carlisle, Yorkshire, lost control of his machine on the Kingsbridge to Totnes road.



Jani Allan, a South African journalist, outside the High Court in London yesterday after she won substantial but undisclosed libel damages over an article published in the *Evening Standard* in October 1989. The article alleged that she had had a liaison with Eugene Terreblanche which led to his resignation as leader of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement. The newspaper, which is also to pay Miss Allan's legal costs, withdrew the allegation unreservedly and apologised for the distress and embarrassment caused.

Gorbachev-Bush summit now on the cards this year

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND MARY DEBEVSKY IN IRKUTSK

PRESIDENT Bush and President Gorbachev are likely to meet for a second summit at the end of the year, it emerged yesterday. No date or venue have been decided, but are likely to be settled by James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, when they meet in Irkutsk in Siberia today and tomorrow.

Mr Shevardnadze told Tass on his way to Irkutsk yesterday that their meeting would "focus on preparations for another Soviet-American summit". European security, bilateral co-operation and regional problems would also be discussed. Tass also quoted Aleksei Obukhov, the deputy foreign minister, as saying a Soviet-US summit was scheduled for the end of the year.

There was no immediate reaction from Washington.

The American and Soviet

leaders agreed to hold regular summits during their meetings in Washington in June, but the general expectation was that the next would be in 1991.

The earlier date has left speculation that completion of a treaty to reduce strategic nuclear weapons may now be in prospect. It will certainly be discussed by Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze. At the Washington summit Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev were able to sign only an accord on the basic provisions of a Start treaty because of continuing disagreements in key areas.

Negotiations continue on a separate treaty to cut the superpowers' conventional forces in Europe (CFE), and a Paris meeting of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), tentatively scheduled for November, is contingent on a CFE treaty being com-

pleted by then. Moscow's agreement to the principle of a united Germany in Nato may prove to have removed a serious stumbling block to the completion of both treaties.

There was some speculation yesterday that Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev could meet in the immediate wake of the CSCE conference, whose purpose is to debate the future shape of Europe and the possible creation pan-European institutions. If they do not hold their summit in Paris, it might be held in the Soviet Union, since the last was in Washington.

The Irkutsk talks are also expected to cover the American change of policy on Cambodia and unconfirmed reports of a superpower deal to end the civil war in Afghanistan.

The agenda is likely as well to include possible American and Western economic assistance for the Soviet Union. One of the stumbling blocks to American support for direct help has been Moscow's programme of aid to Cuba. Opponents of Western aid to the Soviet Union argue that it would simply reduce the pressure on Moscow to curtail its support for Havana.

In the week before Mr Shevardnadze set off for Irkutsk, however, critical comments on Cuban policies in the Soviet press suggested that Moscow might be preparing to downgrade its relations with Havana. A Soviet presidential decree last week announced that all trade with members of the Comecon economic trading bloc would be conducted at world prices and in convertible currency from the beginning of next year.

The Soviet press has covered the flight of Cubans to Western and East European embassies in Havana without comment, and on Monday Pravda published a highly critical account of President Castro's brand of communism, which it called "spurious socialism". The article made a point of the distance between Cuban and Soviet communism, emphasising that the Cuban variety was home-grown and owed nothing to the victory of the Red Army.

It noted that Soviet-Cuban friendship had been in existence for almost 30 years. "We helped when and how we could, not always considering, as we ought to have done, how much it was costing and why we were doing it."

Pravda went on to speak of the "subordination" of the Cuban leadership and to say that this was partly the fault of the Soviet Union. In essence, the article concluded, "the slogan 'Long live inflexibility' is a mirror of our not so distant past."

Other topics on the Irkutsk agenda may include relations between North and South Korea and long-standing Soviet plans for a northern Pacific security system. Moscow has recently disengaged from North Korea and embraced a trade relationship with the South which is expected soon to blossom into full diplomatic relations.

The choice of Irkutsk, a Siberian city with a long pre-revolutionary tradition, is regarded as the return match for the Wyoming meeting last autumn and reflects the recent trend for high-level superpower meetings to be held in places other than state capitals. It has also been fitted in between Mr Baker's Asian trip and his visit to Mongolia, which he will be the first American Secretary of State to visit. The day and a half in Irkutsk will include lunch at a hunting lodge on Lake Baikal.

● MOSCOW: The Soviet Union and Poland are to open more border points to ease a crush of travellers who sometimes wait more than 24 hours to cross, customs officials said yesterday. The numbers crossing are up 20-fold in two months. (Reuters)



Smoke rising from the unfinished Naples courthouse. Police blamed the Camorra, the local mafia, for the fire, which may have damaged the building beyond repair

Terrorists declare war on reunited Germany

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WEST Germany's left-wing terrorist organisation, the Red Army Faction, has declared war on "the Fourth Reich" that it claims a united Germany will become.

The group has called on revolutionary groups to set up an opposing force in Western Europe to stop what it calls the fascist march towards the country becoming a new, greater German world power supported by Nato and the strength of Western Europe.

The threat of more violence to prevent German unity came in a letter posted in Frankfurt on Sunday to international news agencies in which the faction said it had carried out last Friday's attempt to blow up Hans Neusel, West Germany's counter-terrorism minister.

The letter is similar in style and content to one received last year after Alfred Herrhausen, the head of the Deutsche Bank, was killed by a remote-controlled bomb near Frankfurt.

According to the letter, Herr Neusel, who has been a leading light in meetings of the

European Community's Trevi Group, which co-ordinates international action against terrorism, "is one of those who wants to trample on the bodies of our comrades". He is accused of carrying over German fascism from the Third Reich to a unified greater Germany.

A DM 50,000 (£16,850) reward has been offered for information leading to the capture of those responsible for the attack on Herr Neusel. ● EAST BERLIN: The former East German regime sold its troublesome subjects to West Germany for oranges, and later at DM 95,847 (£32,300) a head, in the "quiet established practice of German-German human trade", it was disclosed in East Berlin yesterday (Anne McElroy writes).

The East German interior minister, Peter Drostel, said that in the 25 years before the fall of the Honecker regime, 33,000 political prisoners were delivered to West Germany via "silent channels" by arrangement with the East German authorities. The

channels involved were the Evangelical churches in both halves of Germany. The churches have since defended their clandestine role as humanitarian work.

The details of the human trade, known as *Freikauf* (buying free), which was viewed with mixed feelings even by successive West German governments that financed it, have only now come to light as the apparatus of the Stasi secret police is being dismantled.

For the ministry of state security, which controlled the human trade on the Eastern side, it was an effective way of dealing with dissent by exporting it.

At Christmas in 1964, nationwide shortages of provisions were dealt with by the trading of people. We sold them to West Germany for deliveries of oranges," Herr Drostel said.

As the trade grew, the East Berlin lawyer, Wolfgang Vogel, who masterminded the operation, bargained a price of DM 40,000 (£13,500) a prisoner instead of deliveries of goods. That rose to DM 95,847 in 1977 when the East German economy was in such difficulties that the government was prepared to increase the number of political emigrants for a higher price.

"They settled on this uneven figure so that it would not look like a head-price," Herr Drostel said.

He confirmed the suspected links between the former Stasi and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, naming Abu Hisham as the go-between between Lebanon and East Berlin. "At the end of the 1970s, an agreement was drawn up between the Stasi and the PLO to provide each other with information on the activities of American and Israeli agents in Europe," Herr Drostel said. "Out of this grew the training camps run for terrorists by the Stasi."

He confirmed that there had been unofficial contacts with the IRA, and said that his ministry was pursuing enquiries about more concrete links with Irish terrorists.

Congressmen deny funds for new Nato base

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

FUNDING for a new \$727 million (£395 million) Nato air base in the south of Italy, which the Pentagon believes to be "absolutely critical" to the defence needs of southern Europe and for dealing with problems in the Middle East and northern Africa, has been stopped by the House of Representatives.

Despite Bush administration opposition, the House voted 312 to 82 for an \$8.3 billion 1991 military construction bill which withholds all funding for the Crotona base, which has become a symbol here of the battle between those seeking a peace dividend through large-scale US retrenchment and those urging continued military vigilance.

The bill also cuts last year's \$424 million US contribution to Nato's infrastructure costs to \$250 million, which is \$170 million less than the White House wanted.

Although the \$8.3 billion total was about \$850 million less than the administration asked for, funding for domestic military construction projects emerged largely unscathed. Congressmen insisted it was time for America's allies to pay far more of Nato's costs in Europe.

"Europe has taken us to the cleaners for a long time," David Obey, a Democrat, said. Bill Alexander, the Democrat who sponsored the amendment to halt funding for the Crotona base, said: "The first thing we must do in the post-Cold War era is stop new installations in Europe until the (Pentagon) proposes a new defence strategy and force structure plan which is adopted by Congress."

The Senate has yet to consider its 1991 military construction bill, and it will come under intense pressure to preserve funding for the base, which was planned as the new home for the 72 F16 fighter jets of the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing. Spain has ordered the wing to leave the Torrejon air force base in 1992.

Pentagon officials argue that Crotona, on the south coast of Italy's "boot", is essential to the defence of southern Europe, especially to protect Greece and Turkey from attack. They also argue—privately, in deference to Italian sensitivities—that it would provide well-placed air power in the event of Middle East flare-ups, and that it is within striking distance of Libya.

Senior military and civilian officials have been lobbying hard for the Crotona base, depicting it as a "21st century air base" and one of the most favourable deals in history. Nato allies have agreed to meet more than half the costs.

"I am fully aware that asking for money now to build a new base in Europe is particularly disagreeable," General John Galvin, chief of the allied forces in Europe, told the Senate appropriations committee in June. "I consider Crotona the legitimate price we must pay to maintain peace and stability in southern Europe."

Senate sentiment is hard to gauge, but Jim Sasser, chairman of the military construction sub-committee, has said he would propose legislation allowing a \$50 million US contribution to a scaled-down, "bare-bones" base. "Who are we defending the southern flank from?" he asked.

● GALVESTON: Oil from a large slick floated ashore yesterday after two barges collided with a tanker on Saturday. Officials said 500,000 gallons of oil leaked into Galveston Bay, but none of it had yet reached environmentally sensitive marshes. The slick was estimated to be as much as 15 miles long.

State officials had talks with the Coast Guard yesterday about using oil-eating bacteria to attack the heavy crude. Skimmer ships and floating booms were sent to the area as

some streamers of oil were reported to have reached the Gulf of Mexico, the Coast Guard said. Environmentalists criticised the clean-up effort, saying officials wasted time getting skimmers and oil booms to the site.

The barges, carrying a total of 1.4 million gallons of heavy refinery oil, collided with the Liberian-registered tanker Shinoussa while being towed by a tug through the bay. The tanker, while damaged, did not leak any of its fuel.

Some oil had reached the Texas City Dike and Pelican Island and Redfish Island yesterday morning, the Coast Guard said. "Those areas aren't heavily populated with wildlife," Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Todd Nelson said yesterday. "There are other areas where there's a lot of wildlife, and we're still concerned about those." (AP)

Sri Lanka courts its Muslims

Colombo — President Premadasa of Sri Lanka visited the town of Kalmunai in the strife-torn Eastern province yesterday which has a large concentration of the island's Muslim community. He ordered that banks, schools and government offices should re-open tomorrow as a first step to a return to normality (Vijitha Yapa writes).

The Muslims, whose mother tongue is Tamil but who have greater understanding with the majority Sinhalese community, have come under increasing attack from the Tamil Tiger rebels. They have been accused of assisting the island's security forces in their drive against the Tamil rebels.

In Akkaraipattu, 17 Muslims were abducted by the Tamil Tigers on Monday. They were taken to a paddy field where their hands were tied. Three of them managed to escape but the others were brutally murdered.

At Kanthalai, on the border of the Eastern province, ten Tamils and a Muslim were killed in clashes between the two communities, the security sources said. At Pulliankulam in northern Sri Lanka five soldiers were killed yesterday when Tiger rebels ambushed an army convoy. The army said that seven rebels were killed in the ensuing battle.

Poland names Katyn 'culprit'

Warsaw — Poland believes the Soviet secret police officer who ordered the murder of 4,200 Polish officers in the Katyn forest during the second world war is still alive and should be interrogated (A Correspondent writes).

The justice ministry said Piotr Karpovich Sorpenko was a major in the NKVD when he signed the list of officers to be executed in the spring of 1940. The ministry added that he was still living in Moscow and has asked the Soviet public prosecutor to interrogate him.

During President Jaruzelski's visit to Moscow last April, the Soviet authorities officially admitted for the first time that the NKVD murdered about 4,500 Polish officers captured by Soviet forces in Poland in 1939.

Britons jailed in Delhi drug case

Delhi — A court here yesterday jailed two Britons for 10 years on charges of trying to smuggle 7lb of hashish out of the country.

The court also fined Helen Anne Cooper, aged 27, from London, and Michael Kingsbury, aged 44, a former paratrooper from Dartford, a total of 200,000 rupees (£6,400). Lawyers said the two would appeal against their sentences. (Reuters)

Protest blockade paralyses Georgia

FROM NICK WORRALE IN MOSCOW

AS THE Soviet Union railways ministry halted all traffic into the Caucasian republic of Georgia, a senior opposition leader in Tbilisi claimed that half the republic's rail workers had now come out on strike to support the blockade that has paralysed the transport system there for nearly a week.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia, a leader of the radical Round Table political group opposed to Communist rule in the republic, said that he had attended urgent meetings about the situation with Givi Gumbaridze, president of Georgia. As a result he now expected Mr Gumbaridze, also the Communist party first secretary for Georgia, to promise publicly that free, democratic, multi-party elections would be held as scheduled on October 28.

"He has been trying to have the elections put off until President Gorbachev gets a new union treaty signed which will force us to vote as Soviet citizens, not as free Georgians," Mr Gamsakhurdia said. "Now about half the rail workers in Georgia are supporting us. The blockade will continue until Gamsakhurdia makes his pledge."

Such a concession by the Georgian government would demonstrate the devastating effect of the protest blockade on the republic. From last Thursday 800 people, some from political groups in Tbilisi, have camped across the rails at the crucial junction of Samtredia, 130 miles north-west of the capital.

Tucked between mountain ranges, this is the perfect spot to cause maximum disruption, since all rail traffic to Tbilisi from the Black Sea ports of Bakumi, Poti and Sukhumi passes through Samtredia. The blockade has held up wheat and other vital food supplies as well as petrol, fuel oil and aviation fuel.

This comes at a time of extreme shortages of food and consumer goods — as in the rest of the Soviet Union — and while Georgia's motorists are having to queue at the pumps for 24 hours, due to as yet unexplained petrol shortages.

True, the trade union newspaper, reported yesterday that the rail system was at a halt for

thousands of miles. Some £200 million worth of goods had been held up or lost and 200 goods and passenger trains had been halted.

The rail ministry on Monday appealed to Vadim Bakatin, the Soviet interior minister, to help end the dispute. But the Soviet army newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* said it was hoped that the armed forces would not be used to end the dispute.

Vladimir Ginko, the first deputy rail minister, said in an interview that the decision to halt rail traffic into Georgia had been a hard one to make but "there was no way out". Trainloads of wheat, consumer goods and petrol had been left unprotected and passengers on trains left without food or medical aid.

Mr Gumbaridze said on Monday that the confrontation over elections, between the Georgian government and sections of its deeply divided opposition, movement, had brought the republic to the brink of anarchy and threatened "to grow into an armed conflict". He called on all sides to show maximum political prudence to avert further deterioration.

But Mr Gamsakhurdia accused the Georgian leader of making threats, saying the only armed gangs in the republic were those supporting the old Communist "mafia" whose members wanted to maintain their party power and privilege. *Krasnaya Zvezda* reported that an army unit in Kakheti district was attacked on Monday night and lost 40 pistols to the assailants.

More than a hundred political groups have emerged in Georgia this year. The most liberal grouping is led by the Georgian "Popular Front" which has been at odds with radicals who have refused to take part in elections that imply any allegiance to Moscow.

Now the Round Table group, of which Mr Gamsakhurdia's Helsinki Group is a leading member, will take part in elections as long as they are open to all parties. But a third group refuses to take part in any election while Georgia remains within the Soviet Union.

Yugoslav troubles cast shadow over summit

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN VENICE

HUMAN rights violations by Serbia in its troubled province of Kosovo cast a long shadow over the first day of the five-nation "Pentagonale" summit here yesterday.

None of the foreign ministers of the participating states — Austria, Hungary, Italy, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia — would be drawn on the issue, but privately close aides said Yugoslavia's continuing instability was the greatest challenge to the summit's credibility and its future.

The Hungarians, whose prime minister, Jozsef Antall, will hold talks today with Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, are expected to emphasise the Pentagon's commitment to the rights of minorities in Central and Eastern Europe.

Hungary is anxious over the fate of the 1.75 million Magyars in Romania. Hungarian diplomats yesterday said Mr Antall hoped to secure support from all the participating states for a new statement on minority rights.

But, in order to avoid the charge of hypocrisy, such a statement would have to address itself to violations of human rights in Yugoslavia, where Serbs have imposed

martial law on 1.5 million ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Ante Markovic, the Yugoslav prime minister, who will also hold talks today with Signor Andreotti, is powerless to reassure the summit. Mr Markovic is a Croat and represents a crumbling federal authority.

A senior Hungarian diplomat said yesterday: "We are reconciled to the fact that we are dealing with only part of a nation and that the authority Mr Markovic represents does not correspond to the reality of today's Yugoslavia."

Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, yesterday dismissed these worries as "theoretical". "We must think of what unites us, not what divides us," he said.

Signor De Michelis rejected the idea that the summit could "diplomatically dismantle" Yugoslavia, ejecting Serbia and retaining only the trouble-free democratic northern republic of Slovenia.

"If Belgrade is not able to manage its nationalist difficulties, then a crisis could result which will gravely affect the European structure which is now unfolding."

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Rudolf Nureyev and Alicia Alonso, dancing for the first time together, practise for a performance of *La Misericordia* at a convent in Palma de Mallorca

Gang violence exposes resentment of Paris underclass

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS PARIS sizzles in the grip of a heatwave, marauding bands of youngsters from the deprived housing estates around the capital are taking to the streets in increasingly violent confrontations. A pitched battle between 200 of these self-styled "Zulus" last weekend resulted in the death of one teenager, kicked and beaten mercilessly, while an innocent bystander was attacked in the Métro by another group of young thugs.

The latest incidents have focused fresh attention on the activities of gangs such as the Vicious Sharks and the Last Swine, originating mainly in the bleak working-class suburbs of the Ile de France region. Many of their members are young blacks and North Africans, often unemployed, too poor to consider escaping from their sweltering neighbourhoods for a leisurely sum-

mer holiday now being enjoyed by millions of other French.

The resentment and tension this breeds frequently spills over into ritual confrontations with other gangs looking for trouble in public places. Last Sunday's killing of Omar Touré, a 19-year-old from Mali, occurred beneath the great Arche de la Defense, one of President Mitterrand's favourite projects to mark the 1989 celebrations of the bicentenary of the French revolution.

According to the Parisian police, the fighting that claimed his life erupted after crowds spilled out of a popular rap music club, Midnight Express, and the rival bands set about each other with knives, baseball bats, iron bars and tear-gas pistols.

"They model themselves quite consciously on the gangs from the black and Chicano ghettos of Los Angeles," said one officer from the division responsible for juvenile

crime. "They like the same music, they dress the same, and although Paris has not yet been affected badly by an epidemic of crack addiction, we have to be on our guard."

Ironically, the original "Zulus" were essentially peaceful groups, banding together the better to resist racial attacks from extreme-right gangs of skinheads and supporters of the National Front. But increasingly, say experienced police officers, they are more likely to be made up of young men without hope of ever breaking away from their impoverished background and are all the more angry for that.

Every gang has its own territory, mostly around desolate high-rise blocks of flats and rubbish-strewn streets.

In one of the worst zones to the north of Paris, the local tearaways specialised in attacks on Métro passengers until the police broke up the band. The Black Fist gang, under the leadership of practised street

fighters such as "Scorpion", are said to have been responsible for half a dozen or more mass rapes over the past 12 months.

Growing concern on the part of the French authorities about the spread of delinquency among underprivileged young people was reflected in the announcement last week that "local observatories" are to be set up to monitor particular trouble spots. In Paris, it was announced that Michel Rocard, the prime minister, had authorised a sharp increase in the 1991 budget provision for financing the "fight against delinquency".

The first step, to establish "prevention centres" in some 300 particularly hard areas, is said to be under way already, heralding a three-year drive to bring the figures for offences by young people down after a steady rise through the mid-1980s. Meanwhile, rival gangs are out on the streets, mingling with well-heeled tourists from around the

world, bitterly aware that their own lives will never be like that.

● PARIS: Brigitte Bardot has attacked the Islamic world's ritual slaughter of animals as revolting and cruel. "We are no longer in the Middle Ages and now have every means to curtail the pain and terrifying anguish of animals about to be slaughtered," the former film star told the extreme-right weekly magazine *Présent*. "It is revolting... and unacceptable that, in the name of religion, man should submit animals to such cruel and barbarous sufferings," she said.

Mlle Bardot, who has devoted herself to defending animal rights since her last film in 1973, made her statement after seeing a film of the mass slaughter last month of 3,000 sheep by North African immigrants in Marseilles. She was said by friends to be especially revolted since she has long campaigned for laws to be passed forcing ritual slaughterers to stun beasts. (Reuters)

Iraqi troops mass on Kuwait border before Jedda talks

From MICHAEL THEODOLOU IN MOSCOW

IRAQ continued its massive show of force along its border with Kuwait yesterday as high-powered delegations from the two countries arrived in the Saudi Arabian city of Jedda for talks aimed at ending their bitter dispute over oil and land.

According to diplomatic sources, Kuwait would try to find a face-saving way of bowing to Iraqi demands for a cash handout of thousands of millions of dollars in reparation for lost oil revenues, but would not make territorial concessions.

The meeting was a result of mediation efforts by Arab countries, in particular Saudi Arabia and Egypt. As a first step, they were expected to try to persuade Iraq and Kuwait to sign a non-aggression pact

before their negotiations in the disputed territory.

"Iraq's biggest concern seems to be cash, which the Kuwaitis are willing to pay if Iraq drops claims over disputed land," a Western diplomat said. "But Kuwait, which does not believe in making concessions, knows that it is especially dangerous making concessions to a country like Iraq, because there is no guarantee it won't keep making fresh demands."

The Washington Post said 100,000 Iraqi troops were concentrated on the border with Kuwait - nearly three times the number reported a week ago.

"Iraq is playing on its reputation for being unpredictable," said an Arab oil analyst. "It is saying it could

still invade if it does not get what it wants, even though it said it would not attack Kuwait."

Saudi Arabia had hoped the Jedda talks would settle all the disputed issues, but Iraq insisted that it would only be a preliminary session with the main point to be negotiated in Baghdad.

The leader of the Kuwaiti negotiating team who arrived in Jedda put on a brave face, describing the dispute as a "passing crisis". Sheikh Said al-Sabah, Kuwait's Crown Prince and prime minister, said: "I am looking forward with open heart to the meeting with my brother, Izzat Ibrahim, the leader of the Iraqi delegation."

But Iraq, keen to push its advantage after its success at the Opec meeting in Geneva last week where oil prices were increased considerably, was in no mood for diplomatic niceties. Its uncompromising stance was made clear by the reported troop build-up and the strident tone of the Baghdad press just hours before the talks were due to begin.

"Iraq attends the Jedda meeting to regain its rights and not to hear new talk about fraternity and solidarity which yields nothing," said Al-Jumhuriya, an Iraqi government newspaper.

It served warning that Kuwait had to pay for billions of dollars worth of oil drilled on what it claimed to be Iraqi territory.

The crisis erupted on July 17 when Iraq accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of driving world oil prices down by cheating on their Opec quotas and gutting the oil market.

CAIRO: Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, changed his travel plans yesterday and stayed on in Cairo, Egyptian foreign ministry sources said.

Prince Saud was earlier reported to be on his way to Jedda to welcome the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations to the talks aimed at settling their dispute over land and oil.

Diplomats said the prince, who attended the opening of an Islamic Conference Organisation ministerial meeting in Cairo earlier yesterday, may have decided to stay on in order to review the situation in Lebanon.

Saudi Arabia has played an important role in trying to bring Lebanon's warring groups together to implement an Arab-sponsored peace plan.

Delegates to the Islamic ministerial meeting said that behind-the-scenes discussions were expected on ways of ending the civil war. (Reuters)



Motorcycle Mongols: using a more modern form of transport than the traditional horse, a herdsman and his child travel to the town of Gatchuurt, near Ulan Bator

Dangers face victorious Mongolia communists

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

THE ruling communist party has won a majority in Mongolia's first free elections, according to the nearly complete results released yesterday. The communists, however, face strong opposition in the legislature, where other parties won just under half the seats. Opposition politicians have called the results the funeral of orthodox communism in Mongolia.

As expected, the ruling party has taken about 80 per cent of the seats in the Great Hural (upper house). A healthy opposition showing in the Little Hural, where opposition candidates took about 40 per cent of the seats, was less widely predicted. Seats are awarded in the Little Hural, which has extensive law-making powers, by a system of proportional representation.

Diplomats say that the opposition candidates have done better than expected, and that the communist party may splinter in the face of a strong challenge in the legislature.

Gombojavyn Ochirbat, the secretary-general of the Mongolian Revolutionary party, said that his party would be entering into negotiations with opposition parties on the formation of a coalition government as soon as the final votes had been registered. "We will do our best to co-operate with the newly formed political parties," he said, adding that the new Great Hural would implement reforms guaranteeing human rights and press freedom.

Since demonstrations erupted in Ulan Bator last winter calling for democratic change, the ruling party has repeatedly acted to head off confrontation and make concessions. That atmosphere of conciliation is expected to continue within the newly elected parliament.

Opposition politicians described the result of the only multi-party elections the

country has known in 70 years as a victory. "The results mean the funeral of orthodox communism in Mongolia," the chairman of the Social Democratic party said. "This process has come so suddenly, but this first step is a very big step, an achievement towards democracy. We consider it a victory."

Now Mongolia's two million people in their vast land of desert and steppe sandwiched between China in the south and Russia in the north are preparing for a visit from James Baker, the American

Secretary of State. He will spend much time hunting ibex in the wilderness and a little meeting officials in Ulan Bator to discuss the extension of most-favoured-nation status to Mongolia.

This is the highest level visit since diplomatic relations were established in 1987, and the necessary VIP treatment is straining the nation's spartan facilities. Nevertheless, Mr Baker's visit will represent an opening to the West that has become every Mongolian's dream after years of being a Soviet satellite.

Singh weighs the risks of sacking deputy

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S prime minister, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, caught between competing factions and personal rivalries in his beleaguered coalition government, yesterday summoned a series of top-level meetings before deciding if he should sack Devi Lal, his troublesome deputy.

Mr Singh, who became prime minister just eight months ago, is struggling to save his National Front government from the kind of internal conflicts that brought down the last Janata administration in 1979, returning the Gandhi dynasty to power for another decade.

At least one or two cabinet ministers might resign in protest if he decides not to dismiss Mr Lal, aged 75, who rose to national prominence for the first time after November's general election. Yesterday's meetings were aimed at finding a formula to keep Mr Lal in office.

Some ministers have proposed that Mr Lal could stay if he signed a code of conduct agreeing to refrain from further public outbursts against his colleagues. This move reveals a general determination to try to save Mr Lal, simply because he could cause even greater damage as a disgruntled outsider than he already has from within.

Mr Lal, a poorly educated Jat from the northern state of Haryana, is the antithesis of the urbane, privately educated Mr Singh, who is known as "the Raja" because of his princely background. The two are now on a collision course and the outcome could determine whether there is a winter general election. Even if this latest upheaval passes, nobody expects the government to survive for long.

Mr Singh, from the high-caste Rajputs, has asked Mr Lal in writing to explain why he used a forged document as evidence for corruption allegations against two cabinet ministers, Arun Nehru and Arif Mohammed Khan. It is widely assumed that Mr Lal himself had the document forged. It was dated 1987 and written on notepaper headed: "Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Member of Parliament".

The prime minister has spent much of the past two days consulting the various parties that make up the government, principally the communists and the Bharatiya Janata party, the Hindu nationalist organisation. Both approved the sacking of Mr Lal if Mr Singh so decides, and

undertook to continue supporting the minority government in parliament.

Several state chief ministers from the ruling parties arrived in Delhi yesterday for the talks with Mr Singh. Most of them urged Mr Singh to resist pressure for Mr Lal's dismissal. One, Jyoti Basu of West Bengal, said the deputy prime minister deserved "a second chance".

Mr Lal has been decisively isolated in Delhi, but he retains a big following in rural areas of Haryana and the Hindi heartland of northern India. He claims to be the voice of the peasant masses, speaking Hindi in a strong local dialect, and is the only cabinet minister who is not fluent in English. He was a founder of the Janata Dal (People's party), which heads the government, and was closely involved in the backroom manoeuvring that brought Mr Singh to power.

He was also a leading force in forming the multi-party National Front government. It would be politically risky to sack him, not least since nobody doubts that he would pursue a vendetta if he were dismissed, forging alliances with opposition forces as well as disgruntled elements within the government.

The present turmoil centres on the intense personal animosity between Mr Lal and Mr Nehru, the commerce minister, who might be the first to resign if the deputy prime minister is not dismissed. He did not turn up at his office yesterday and did not attend the routine cabinet meeting.

The forged document revealed by Mr Lal alleged that Mr Nehru was involved in the Bofors arms corruption affair, and claimed that Mr Khan was a beneficiary of a deal for the supply of electric equipment to the state of Uttar Pradesh. Mr Lal's allies were yesterday urging him to sign a letter of apology.

He has denied that he had the forgery made, saying it must have been planted on him by "interested parties". Mr Singh has referred the document to the Central Bureau of Investigation. He has also asked Mr Lal to explain a magazine interview in which he was quoted as saying that the prime minister was weak and spineless. Mr Lal denied using the word "spineless". Even so, the interview was peppered with other criticisms of the prime minister, none of which Mr Lal has disowned.

South Africa jails pacifist priest

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

DOUGLAS Torr, a pacifist Anglican priest aged 26 who has refused to do national service in the South African Defence Force (SADF), was yesterday sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment by Hein Verhof, a Johannesburg magistrate, who said he regretted that the only sentence he could impose was one of imprisonment. Torr, he said, was not the "kind of material" who should go to prison and would not benefit from it.

Torr pleaded guilty at a hearing in May to contravening the Defence Act. The sentence of 12 months' imprisonment is a landmark in dealing with conscientious objectors. In March two appeal court judges ruled in another case that the courts had discretion in sentencing conscientious objectors and were not compelled to impose the maximum of six years' imprisonment prescribed by the Defence Act.

Six years is twice the former period of national service. Whittaker was required to complete two years' full-time conscription and one year, split into a series of annual call-ups, in the reserve. Late last year President de Klerk reduced the period of full-time conscription to 12 months, which meant that Torr had faced four years in prison.

The magistrate postponed sentencing him in May because he said there was insufficient evidence on whether he should be compelled to do community service instead. Yesterday Mr

Verhof said Torr did not qualify as a religious objector and that a sentence of community service could not be imposed. Torr's imprisonment, he added, should be seen symbolically to "impress upon others rather than on the accused that they should do military service".

At the earlier hearing Torr said he was a pacifist and was not prepared to serve in any military force, even as a chaplain, in any part of the world. This was especially true in South Africa, because the SADF plays a role in upholding the evil system of apartheid.

Before he was led from the dock he turned to a packed public gallery and blessed his supporters, mostly members of the End Conscription Campaign, an organisation which was outlawed by Mr P.W. Botha, the former president.

NAIROBI: Leading Kenyan churchmen have called for an immediate general election, accusing the government of corruption and alleging incompetence in the official considering reforms in reaction to recent unrest.

The Most Reverend Masesa Maria, Archbishop of Nairobi, and other Anglican church leaders submitted a memorandum containing the allegations to the review committee of the ruling Kenya African National Union on Monday. The committee was set up by President Moi after the anti-government riots which last month claimed 22 lives. (AFP)

Khmer Rouge says it has seized port

Bangkok - The Khmer Rouge says it has overrun Kampong, one of Cambodia's main ports and defeated an attempted counter-attack. The Khmer Rouge radio station said on Monday its forces overran the port, southeast of the capital Phnom Penh and only 25 miles from the Vietnamese border, on July 24, killing 19 government soldiers and wounding 45.

There has been no official report of fighting at Kampong. Cambodian officials say the guerrillas have been active in the nearby forested Elephant mountain range. (Reuters)

Ballot offer

Port Moresby - Ted Diro, the acting prime minister, says Papua New Guinea may agree to rebel demands for a secession referendum on the island of Bougainville. But Mr Diro, holding peace talks with the rebels on a New Zealand naval ship off Bougainville, said he may not abide by the referendum's outcome. (AP)

Peru clean-up

Lima - President Alberto Fujimori, continuing an apparent clean-up in his first days in office, has replaced four of Peru's top police officials. On Saturday, hours after being sworn in, he removed the navy and air force commanders. (AP)

Greek quake

Athens - An earthquake measuring five on the Richter scale shook southern Greece yesterday, but there were no reports of casualties or damage. The epicentre was 135 miles south of Athens, under the sea off the town of Kalamata. (Reuters)

Michel Guy dies

Paris - Michel Guy, the French culture minister from 1974 to 1978, and creator of the annual Paris autumn arts festival, died yesterday after a long illness. He was aged 63. (Reuters)



Natasha Harms, aged 17, getting a hug from her mother, Shireen. They were reunited 14 years after the teenager was abducted in Johannesburg. Police said a black woman had been arrested

Aids 'will orphan 10 million'

From AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN GENEVA

THE World Health Organisation has increased its estimate of the number of people carrying the Aids virus to between eight million and ten million, up from between six and eight million, because of dramatically increasing infection in developing countries.

Aids will kill three million women and children during the 1990s and will leave ten million orphaned children, the World Health Organisation forecast yesterday.

Michael Merson, the director of the WHO programme against Aids, said yesterday that the increase had occurred mainly in developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and in Asia. In the developed world the increase appeared to be slowing down, Dr Merson said.

However, he said this trend should be treated with caution because the disease was continuing to spread among particular groups in the industrialised world. It was

now clear that the worldwide toll was worsening rapidly, especially in developing countries, he said.

If Aids infections over the next couple of years increased markedly in Asia and Latin America, and continued to expand in sub-Saharan Africa, the WHO's projections, which are considered conservative, would need to be revised further upward. Their revision was the result of a detailed review and analyses, the WHO, a United Nations body, said.

The WHO increased its estimate of the number of infected people in sub-Saharan Africa from 2.5 million in 1987 to about five million now, using analysis of data from 1988 and 1989.

Most of the infected people included earlier lived in cities, but there was now evidence that the infection was spreading in rural areas of most sub-Saharan countries. Consequently, in the region one adult in 40 was believed to be

infected, compared with one in 50 earlier.

Data from Southeast Asia, and particularly from Thailand, as well as from India, showed marked increases of Aids infection among injecting drug users and prostitutes. New data showed the total number of people infected in Asia had risen from almost zero two years ago to at least 500,000 now, which was a far faster development than had been expected.

Overall, the World Health Organisation did not increase its estimates for the year 2000 of between 15 million and 20 million infected people, but said that the marked increase in Asia and in Latin America, and the epidemic spreading in sub-Saharan Africa, could lead within a few years to a new and dramatic evaluation of all forecasts.

The World Health Organisation said that the increases reflect the growing incidence of heterosexual transmission around the world.

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Radicalism in retreat

Martin Jacques

Recently I read an interview with Jan Urban, the head of Czechoslovakia's Civic Forum, in which he spoke of the "over-idealisation of society." This is a recurrent theme of central European intellectuals as they try to make sense of the last 40 years of their history. The argument is not difficult to follow. Politics occupied every nook and cranny of society: everything was politicised, from education to key appointments in all spheres. And at the centre was the all-powerful party, with tentacles that reached into every area of civil society. Society was subordinated to politics. A grand project in social engineering went hand-in-hand with an all-pervading ideology.

It is difficult for those accustomed to Western European ways to appreciate what such systems are like. They are a distant inter-war memory, except in some southern Mediterranean countries. None the less, some of the issues raised by the east European experience have an echo in contemporary British political debate.

For the past decade, Britain has experienced what, by the standards of its own recent history, has been a highly ideological form of government. The Thatcherite project has been driven by a big idea, the market. It has sought to remould society and many of its institutions in that image. It is a restless, hungry force, always seeking new areas to conquer and transform, a disciple of permanent revolution. In the spirit of all radical projects, it rejects what preceded it, and its conception of its own purpose is strategic rather than pragmatic. To complete the picture, we have even seen shades of the *nomenklatura* in appointments to public bodies.

There is no doubt that the Thatcherite revolution has had a positive side. The previous era was dominated by pragmatism, technocratic modes of thought and sheer conservatism. Drift and cosy clubbiness increasingly became its hallmarks. Thatcherism was an overdue shock to that system, administered endogenously rather than exogenously by war or disaster.

Nothing symbolises the change more dramatically than a comparison of Mrs Thatcher with the longest-serving prime minister of the previous era, Harold Wilson. Mr Wilson was the master of fix and fudge, for whom seven days was a long time, the limit of his strategic vision. By contrast, Mrs Thatcher is driven by ideology: she is the revolutionary intent on long-term transformation.

But like all radical projects, hers has a downside. The determination to transform, to create society anew, generates its own intolerance. Pluralism is a condition to be denigrated rather than valued. The world must reflect the new order. Unions, professions

and royal family must all be forced to adapt. Meanwhile alternative views are treated with scant regard, opposition is dismissed as simply the old and obsolete, or, in extremis, as the enemy within. Of course, unlike in Eastern Europe, there are serious democratic limits to how far this process can go. None the less, the Thatcherite era has been characterised by a singular, over-politicised view of society.

The problem with radicalism of this kind is that it sows the seeds of its own downfall. Precisely because it frowns on pluralism and diversity, because it overreaches itself, it is confronted by a steadily growing range of opponents, active and passive. This has become a significant factor during the last year, feeding the rise of Labour and encouraging the government's own slow retreat from a radical agenda.

An interesting question is thereby posed: can radicalism on anything other than a relatively short timescale? Must the body politic eventually reject the transient, whatever the volume of drugs administered? Two principles, it seems to me, must be observed if success is to be achieved. And neither is generally characteristic of radical projects, whether of the left or right. First, such projects must respect the pluralism and diversity of society, or, to put it another way, recognise the limitations of politics and the political. Secondly, for radical change to be enduring, it must rest on consensus.

Consensus, of course, has become a dirty word in the Thatcherite lexicon, a term of abuse applied to the club of vested interests that ran Britain by compromise and fudge in the Sixties and Seventies. But there is another, very different concept of consensus that is not about deals in smoke-filled rooms, but about a common approach, an intellectual convergence, a sense of joint purpose. Without that, fundamental change is impossible and revolutions can be reversed.

Of course one of the key problems is that the British political system does not encourage such a culture. It is based on an adversarial system, on party competition rather than co-operation, which promotes difference at the expense of agreement. By early next century, my guess is that Thatcherism will look like a blip, a mere interruption of a pattern of government by fudge and conservatism. For Labour shows little sign of seeking a different kind of radicalism, which is rooted in civil society and seeks out consensus. Yet radical change is precisely what Britain needs. We are a country weighed down by the past, unable to adapt to the new, and stuck with a constitutional order which is antediluvian.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Around this time of the year I go along to a secret address in north London as one of a panel of experts for the annual Blind Tasting of Wine Critics. The occasion gives us an opportunity to pit our wits against one another in trying to identify a selection of wine critics — some vintage, others bursting with youth — while blindfolded.

This year, this charming little competition was particularly intriguing. A blindfold was placed over my eyes as I was led into a carpeted room with my fellow competitors. "I will now open wine critic number one. You will all have a chance to savour him or her before deciding on vintage, type and place of origin," said the organiser. We then heard the distinctive "pop" of a cork being drawn from the mouth of the first wine critic.

Immediately the superlatives poured forth. We all pinned back our ears, waiting for the tell-tale signs. "Mmmm..." gushed wine critic number one. "First impressions eminently quotable... sort of chocolatey and pineapple... fruitcakey, perhaps almost Black Forest gâteau... just the thing, I would say, for cheese and pickle sandwiches."

Anal They were kicking off with an easy one. It was, I felt sure, Griselda Gurgle, the presenter of BBC TV's *Gargling with Gurgle* programme and author of numerous wine guides, including *The Mitchell Buzley Book of Dry White Brackish Wines*. From the moment she mentioned cheese and pickle sandwiches, I knew it was Griselda. A dedicated enthusiast for cheese and pickle sandwiches — she is, after all, the author of *The World Atlas of Cheese and Pickle Sandwiches*, she firmly believes that all wine goes excellently with such a snack, and never misses a chance to spread the word (or, indeed, the pickle).

"Wine critic number two" announced the organiser. Another cork went "pop" and the subsequent outpouring of words seemed to splutter everyone in sight. "This red bastard comes up from behind, gets a good grip and hits you right between the eyes with an attack of such persistence that it might be crippling if one were not so

powerfully full-bodied oneself." Could it be Jack "The Hunk" Slasher, black-belted wine critic of the *Daily Star*, once awarded the coveted MOV (Master of the Viniculture), twice put away for GBH (grievous bodily harm)? No: further clues pointed to only one candidate. Still blindfolded, I wrote on my card, "aggressive and forthright, showing signs of ageing but still far from maturity, combining acidity with a sort of cloying overstatement. I would say he comes from a New Region — yes, either the *New Statesman* or the *New Musical Express* — but I can't be more specific-hick!"

It seemed that all this talk of wine was having its effect on my stomach. Happily, the aroma of the third wine critic was an immediate giveaway. Cheesy, with a strong biscuity nose, it could only be one person, and, when his mouth was uncorked it became quite obvious to everyone present.

"Errm," he said. "Errm, this one's all right, I suppose, if you like that kind of thing." More massive than complex, flat, coarse and backward, it was undoubtedly Ron Rouge, the 20-stone summelier for McDonald's UK, way beyond his peak but still suitable for parties and picnics.

The rest were uncorked in rapid succession, leading to some confusion among the panel, but I managed to put a name and price on Miriam Quiver ("full, fat and fruity"), Lulu Lambada ("tart, seductive and immediate with a hint of scrub but lacking consistency") and Bertram Ponsonby-Smythe ("rich and plummy with sickly aftertaste") before falling at the last fence, confusing Muriel McIlennan, with plenty of zip" with Geoffrey Jeffrey ("excellent before dinner, too dry after dinner, fine with nuts").

When the tasting was over, someone suggested we give them time to breathe before circulating them. However, I find that mixing my wine critics gives me a headache, so we agreed to insert those marvellous new corks and keep them for another day. By the way, I would strongly advise keeping wine critics in the dark and stacking them on their sides; as is well known, they are at their best when horizontal.

Peter Stothard, US editor, on the hectic holiday schedule in the mountains of Colorado

Thatcher rings down the Curtain

Mrs Thatcher is warming up for her summer holiday this week in characteristic fashion: she is flying to America for an international leadership conference. A talk with President Bush in Aspen, Colorado, tomorrow will be followed by a foreign affairs speech on Sunday which her advisers believe will be one of her most powerful ever.

Sandwiched in between is a helicopter trip to visit global warming experts, strategic defence researchers, and the US missile defence command inside Cheyenne Mountain. She then plans to take her annual few days off duty.

Mrs Thatcher will doubtless be pleased to get away from London. The death of her close friend Ian Gow, the disgrace of Nicholas Ridley, and the deafening cries of Labour on the warpath have made the view from Downing Street seem bleak.

In America she is guaranteed a warm reception and the chance to set out her vision of the changing world, whose changes she has not always supported but is in a unique position to understand. British officials would like to liken her Aspen speech to Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" predic-

tion at Fulton, Missouri, but are wary of doing so because Churchill was no longer in office at the time. But Mrs Thatcher's ambition appears to be almost as great. She wants to get her stamp on America's relations with Europe now that second world war is finally at its end.

Tomorrow's meeting with President Bush is an unconvenanted bonus. Her visit to America, during which she will become the third recipient of the Aspen Institute's 40-year-old Statesman Award, has been planned for several months. But Mr Bush's decision to open the leadership conference and meet her — only three weeks after their meeting at the economic summit in Houston, Texas, is a recent one.

The Aspen talks are seen as taking place on a "hinge" period. America is still suffering the diplomatic after-effects of the Stavropol agreement between President Gorbachev and Chancellor Kohl. Although this accord appeared to fulfil Washington's wishes, it was publicly conducted without an American presence. Britain, which has been forced to give ground as graciously as possible in Germany's drive for unity, can now discuss with its

closest ally what the next steps should be.

The two sides will be concerned for example, with the prospects of basing Nato nuclear forces in a united Germany. Neither is wholly clear that a hidden agenda at Stavropol might not put additional restraints on Chancellor Kohl. Both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Bush want the Kohl government to win December's all-German elections. But, what then?

Tomorrow's meeting is to be held in the mountain surroundings of one of America's most beautiful ski-resorts. It is seen as an opportunity for both leaders to relax, look forward and consider the future pattern of nuclear deterrence in the new Europe. As one American official here put it, "I hope their talks are on as high a level as their feet will be."

Mrs Thatcher's ideas will be read by an administration which is increasingly concerned at its failure to lead the debate on the future levels of US forces. The defence secretary, Richard Cheney, has been heavily criticised for allowing the intellectual agenda to be set by the Senate. Most observers expect changes at the top of the Pentagon soon.

The standard list of bi-lateral

irritants for the two sides is short. The most recent addition is some small American concern that it had insufficient warning of the British government's defence cuts last week. Senior American arms control officials would have preferred that the 18 per cent reductions be kept back until the completion of the CFE talks in Vienna on reducing conventional forces in Europe. The Pentagon has expressed annoyance at the unheralded reduction of the Atlantic submarine fleet.

The British view is that America has been hardly the most vigorously consultative ally in recent rounds of troop level reductions in Europe. It is thought that the President himself is less worried about this matter than some of his subordinates are.

Just as Mrs Thatcher is hard-pressed at home, so Mr Bush's domestic problems are pressing to supplant his interest in foreign affairs. It can often be easier for politicians to talk freely when their domestic fortunes are at a similar ebb: the American budget deficit and the British poll tax may help the Aspen discussions.

Neither side looks likely to persuade the other on long-standing disputes such as the repatri-

ation of the Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong. Mrs Thatcher, by choosing to visit the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in nearby Boulder, may be signalling that her pressure for more US action on global warming is based on a continual assessment of the latest findings.

The choice of Cheyenne Mountain is also symbolic. Under 1,700 feet of Colorado granite, through twin blast-proof doors, four feet thick, is the network of command posts from which the US would first see a Soviet ballistic missile attack. On Friday Mrs Thatcher will be able to witness what most people may glimpse only in *War Games*, the sci-fi computer film comedy from the early 1980s about a computer hacker who tries to invade a California game company but finds the American doomsday machine instead.

She will walk in buildings whose foundations are made of springs and whose doors are always at right-angles to a nuclear blast. She will meet the men and women who still work on the front line of the cold war — before returning to Aspen to deliver her speech about how US and European relations should develop as that war's verities come to an end.

Bequest or be damned? It's all a matter of willpower

Sally Brompton contrasts British and American attitudes on leaving something to the children — with a question mark over care for the old

Jostling the advertisements for dentures and high-fibre cereals in the American magazine *Modern Maturity* are others for luxury cars and expensive foreign holidays. Thrifty Car Rental offers the elderly 10 per cent discounts; next to a picture of two happy greyheads splashing in a swimming pool, Trans World Airlines declares: "You earned it. 50 gets you 20 per cent off."

The magazine, published by the American Association of Retired Persons, has a circulation of 23 million — one of the country's biggest. And its huge advertising revenue reflects the wealth of its target audience.

In Britain the over-55s make up one third of the population and account for the same proportion of total spending: about £95 billion a year. Because major commitments are behind them — buying a home and furniture, bringing up children — most of their spending is "discretionary": money that is used at will, much of it spent on non-essentials.

There is one crucial difference in spending patterns between the two nations, however. It is an article of faith of the British middle classes, perhaps acquired from the aristocracy and the bequest of landed estates, that they should leave something to their children. And it is the middle classes who have benefited most from the tremendous growth in home ownership in the last 25 years and the phenomenal rise in house prices. Furthermore, until invalidity forces them into nursing homes or sheltered accommodation, most prefer to stay in their own homes.

Today's generation of 40 and 50-year-olds, therefore, has huge sums coming its way as parents die and family homes are sold. Last year the total passed on to inheritors was a record £14.7 billion, and the Henley Centre for Forecasting predicts that this fig-

ure will increase steadily until the turn of the century. Since most of the inheriting generation are themselves owner-occupiers, still bigger sums will finally pass to those now in their teens and twenties.

In America, with its long tradition of opportunity for all those prepared to seize it, there is not the same preoccupation with handing money on to the next generation. Although the proportion of owner-occupation is roughly the same as in Britain, many people sell up the family home on retirement to buy a share in a condominium or rent a flat in one of the sunbelt states stretching from Florida to California.

Unlike their counterparts in Britain, elderly Americans do not have the National Health Service to see them through illnesses and operations or to provide spectacles and dentures. Medical insurance helps, but the patient still has to pick up much of the bill.

A pattern emerges, then, of keeping a wary eye on the future but spending extravagantly in the present. America's over-60s, according to economists, control about half the total amount available for discretionary spending — and spend they do. A favourite car bumper sticker in Florida reads: "I'm driving my kids' inheritance."

Will traditional British attitudes persist, or will our sense of responsibility to the next generation fall to a tidal wave of American-style consumerism? A glance at the advertising columns of Britain's two leading magazines aimed at the elderly, *Choice* and *Years*, is instructive. They contain the same kind of seductive invitations as the American *Modern Maturity* — motor caravanning, cameras, property abroad — but with a liberal sprinkling of advertisements by banks and building societies encouraging readers to make adequate provision for the future — and



in some cases for the present. Chief among these are the offer of mortgages on homes to provide a regular income. Nationwide Anglia's HomeIncome loan scheme, launched last October, offers over-65s the choice of a lump sum of up to 15 per cent of the value of the property, or an income of up to 30 per cent of its value paid in monthly instalments over at least ten years, at an interest rate 1 per cent above the normal mortgage rate. The company gets its money back from the eventual sale of the property. The loan comes with an insurance policy costing 2 per cent of the advance, which guarantees that at least a quarter of the value of the property will be passed on to

the heirs. According to Nationwide Anglia, the scheme was designed to avoid "selling the family silver for immediate benefit. It's an interesting balance for parents who want to retain their independence but want to have something to pass on to their children."

Until recently, many elderly people gave substantial sums in their own lifetime to their children — so-called "living wills". With longer life expectancy, however, this practice is less prevalent: healthy people in their seventies see no reason why they should not live until they are 90, and want to keep their money to meet ever-increasing living costs.

Longer life expectancy also

means that more people need full-time care. Unless it is provided by the family — as Sir Geoffrey Howe, echoing many previous government exhortations, urged last week — this can be expensive and drain away money the heirs were expecting. And that, says Jill Pitkeathley, director of the Career National Association, often causes great resentment.

British attitudes to caring for parents have been complicated by the welfare state. "The traditional view, in our society, was that children were expected to look after their parents in old age," says Dr Robin Gilmour, a social psychologist. "As we have been encouraged to believe that others might at least share, if not take over, some of that responsibility, looking after one's parents is no longer a foregone conclusion."

"The interesting question is whether people who have substantial disposable income should arrange things so that they are not a burden on their children."

In the case of the less well off, divorce and remarriage often inhibit children prepared to take on the financial responsibility for their parents' future. "When the blood relative dies, the children may find themselves supporting the step-parent," says the Rev Michael Wright, an Anglican priest who counsels those looking after elderly relatives. "The whole situation is very complex. I think the financial responsibility is best borne by the parents themselves." Rather than urging more children to look after their parents, says Mr Wright, the government should encourage those approaching old age to take out private insurance on top of their national insurance contributions.

In America, the baby-boomers, having postponed marriage and children to enjoy the years of prosperity to the full, increasingly find that after bringing up their children, they have to start caring for parents who have blown their money. An instant tag has been bestowed on them: the sandwich generation. If Britain's elderly emulate the Americans and embark increasingly on a spending spree, might we have one a few years hence?

Additional reporting by James Bone in New York.

Wily William's whereabouts

Plans to mark the centenary of the birth of Just William creator Richmal Crompton in November have been marked by a controversy over the location of the archetypal English village in which the legendary horror lived.

Miss Crompton, who died in 1969, went out of her way not to identify the village, since her former headmistress refused to talk to her for 30 years after recognising herself in one of Crompton's more serious novels. Like the Wodehouse aficionados who have tried to pinpoint Blandings Castle, a number of William fans have seized upon every minor clue from the books — which have sold more than 10 million copies — in an attempt to put a name to the place.

Kenneth Waller, a retired Harrow classics master and William expert, claims to have traced the village, complete with Old Barn, irate farmers and well-stocked sweetshop. He says it is between Serton and Bicester in Oxfordshire, and has produced a detailed map to prove it. Both Macmillan, Crompton's publishers (who printed the map) and the organisers of a Richmal Crompton exhibition at the London Museum of Childhood (which prominently displays it) are convinced by Waller's argument.

But Margaret Disher, Richmal Crompton's niece, tells a different story. "Nonsense," she says. "All the ponds and streams and fields in the book are based on Bromley Common, where Richmal Crompton

lived. Bromley also fits with times of the trains that William's father takes to London. I was there," she adds, as confirmation. "You're not going to tell me that Kenneth Waller was there. She once said on the radio that it was somewhere in Kent, but the next week she would say it was Sussex or Surrey. Never, though, did she say Oxfordshire."

Margaret Disher says her aunt would be intrigued by the controversy were she still alive. "She would have pretended it was all nonsense but would have loved every minute of it."

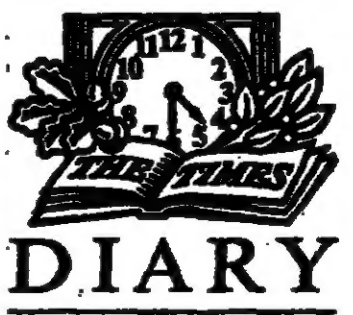
Perhaps the anarchic William was right to conclude that all grown-ups are mad.

Young man's friend

The Vietnamese pot-bellied pig's title as most fashionable pet is in danger. The humble hamster is being assidu-



ously promoted as an essential accessory for the yuppie. Armitage, a pet products manufacturer, is energetically engaged in what it terms the "reposit-



DIARY

ioning" of the hamster. The perfect pet for the affluent and hard-working adult, Armitage claims, sleeps all day and wakes on the owner's return from work. "Hamsters make devoted companions for energetic career men and women with insufficient time for a cat or dog," says a company spokesman, without irony. Furthermore, they are easy to look after, do not create allergies and are odour-free. And there are no kennel or cattery expense when you go on holiday. Just put it in a bag and take it with you.

The top people's store, Harrods, sells 30 hamsters a week, but were unable to say what sort of homes they are going to. As yet the "repositioning" has had few results: a browse through *Who's Who* reveals numerous animal lovers, but as of the 1990 edition, no hamster keepers.

Pitching in

John Major just cannot keep away from the cricket pitch. At the weekend he gave BBC radio commentator Brian Johnston the benefit of his expertise in the Lord's commentary box in "A

View from the Boundaries" on *Test Match Special*. Yesterday he was cheering England to their victory over India. His appearance at the game coincided with his extraordinary response to a tongue-in-cheek suggestion that he should devalue the run in the light of the recent glut. Writing in the letters page of *The Guardian*, Major declined to do so, but commented: "Instead, I thought I might spend a part of the summer devising a plan for a 'hard' run." Not, though, turning the Brussels 12 into an eleven.

The select committee on Welsh affairs is taking its investigation into health services in the Principality very seriously. To the surprise of local doctors, the committee, chaired by Gareth Wardell, has decided to don surgical masks to observe operations at first hand. Making sure the cuts are in the right places?

Eauspipe confusion

Thames Water management has sent a note to each of its 9,000 employees urging them to enjoy the tap water supplied by the company rather than expensive bottled waters. "Stick a few ice cubes and a piece of lemon into it and I defy anyone to tell the difference from the bottled stuff," says spokesman Tom Curtin.

Mineral water is frowned upon at board meetings, and executives are urged to refuse bottled supplies at hotels and business meetings. "We supply the average family with 500 gallons of water a week at an average cost of £1," says Curtin. "That compares to

the average price of £1 for one bottle of mineral water. So you can see why we are encouraging people to drink our own product."

Which is all fine and dandy, except that, with barely a drop of rain for weeks, customers banded to cut back on water consumption as much as they can. Perhaps we should water our roses with Evian and take a bath (with a friend) in Perrier.

Watch this space

One of the best preserved collections of vintage cars in Britain may shortly be dispersed. They include: Rolls Royces, Bentleys, Aston Martins, Bristols, MGs and Panthers, and they are kept in the basement, with round-the-clock security, in the underground car park at the Palace of Westminster. Most, however, have no right to be kept there. MPs are entitled to only one space each, but some have been using two, one for their everyday Rover or Vauxhall, the other for their £50,000 vintage classic. As a result, the House authorities have been forced to rent 30 extra spaces near the Commons at an annual cost of £2,000 each.

Labour MP Stan Orme, chairman of the Commons committee responsible for the country's most exclusive car park, has initiated a purge and instructed staff to monitor vehicles going in and out. "We've had quite a clear-out already," he says. "Some of the cars were extremely valuable indeed." Some of the offending MPs have been identified. Orme's committee has pledged not to name them.

كلام من مصر



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BR OFF THE RAILS

Britain's railways have had an awful year. Yesterday's blast of criticism from British Rail's passenger watchdog comes on top of poor business results and the demoralising rejection by the government of a new Channel tunnel rail link. To make matters worse, regular news is heard from the Continent, Spanish and Germans. In these countries, railways enjoy a saintly political status, meriting huge investment with no questions asked, like Concorde and orbital motorways. In France a minister boasts of his new rail plans. In Britain, a transport secretary wins his Treasury spurs by crushing them.

BR has always had the worst of all worlds. The industry is not so close to ministers as to benefit from Treasury largesse, like road-building or defence contracting. But it is not so distant as to escape political meddling in investment. BR manages to run the most extensive high-speed inter-city network in Europe and the only (roughly) profitable one. The railway operates with half the German subsidy and a third the French one. Yet until the present recession, London's commuter railways were approaching break-even point. The Network SouthEast subsidy was down from 43 per cent of other receipts in 1985 to just 10 per cent in 1990.

Forced to operate with a declining subsidy, BR has worked to stringent financial targets. Its recent annual report showed turnover, productivity, investment and receipts are all up this year on last, while government grants and unit costs are down. Foreign rail managers, fat with subsidy, visit Britain to wonder in amazement that its trains run at all. The rest of Europe puts five times as much of its gross domestic product into its railways as does Britain.

None of this means anything to the passengers, and here is the rub. Thatcherism has treated BR's subsidy as a dead loss, yet failed to persuade the public that railways are simply another business rather than a part of the welfare state. BR has now reached the point where even the slightest decline in revenue

demand painful cost cutting. The 1990 recession in the Southeast has meant closure of ticket offices and cancelled trains. Punctuality, the one performance indicator to matter to most passengers, has declined in most sectors this year. Complaints have risen. More people may use trains, and pay ever higher prices to do so, but they still regard them as a public utility.

There is no evidence that throwing subsidy at trains would drastically improve performance, though some evidence that throwing investment at them does. BR is now investing as much as ever in new trains, though Britain's lethargic engineering industry is unlikely to produce them soon enough to satisfy most of today's passengers. The next improvement almost certainly lies elsewhere, deep in the culture of an industry which sees itself as executor of a statutory obligation laid on it by parliament, not as a modern, competitive travel business.

Britain's railways are still run as a giant, unionised, public sector conglomerate in which the customer, far from always being right, is really a bit of a nuisance. Such an industry is precisely the sort which in 1979 the Tories might have regarded as ideally suited to privatisation, far more so than water or gas. Successive ministers have pondered privatising BR, but never succeeded in persuading the prime minister that the game was worth the political candle. She has backed off, and postponed privatisation until the next parliament.

The railway in Britain has long been ripe for dividing up into consumer-oriented transport businesses, competing if not geographically with themselves, at least with other transport modes. There are plenty of models for doing this, and plenty of expertise to advise on how best to proceed. Instead, political nervousness has left British Rail uncertain of its commercial future, its subsidy seen merely as a loss and its development in pawn to the Treasury. Small wonder the passengers are noticing something is wrong, and that their watchdog is beginning to bark.

CENTRAL EUROPE BY GONDOLA

There are many worse places to spend a couple of days at this time of year than the island of San Giorgio in the Venetian lagoon. The Italian, Austrian, Hungarian, Czech and Yugoslav leaders who gathered there for the first *pentagonale* summit yesterday may not have rebuilt the Austro-Hungarian empire in a day.

Germany retains the initiative in the East. But Venice is a symbol both of the grandeur and the evanescence of commercial civilisation. As central Europe joins the queue behind Austria for entry to the European Community, the Venice conference has given the Czechs, Hungarians and Yugoslavs a chance to prove that they seriously mean to create the conditions for integration into the EC.

The pentagonal initiative is a triumph for the veteran Italian prime minister, Giulio Andreotti. While the Austrians are the second largest foreign investors in Hungary after the Germans, Italy's share there and elsewhere in central Europe is insignificant. Signor Andreotti cannot expect to carry as much weight in *Mittel Europa* as Chancellor Kohl. But this weakness has been turned to advantage by one of the shrewdest of European diplomats.

Many Hungarians resent the growth of German influence. Their nation was recently told of an unexpected round of price rises by telephone from Bonn, where Hungary's prime minister, Jozsef Antall, was visiting. Many Czechs and Slovaks also fear German economic hegemony and, as a result, welcomed foreign investment less readily than the Hungarians.

The economic accords due to be signed today in Venice have been reached under an Italian aegis only because the weaker states have no fear of becoming satellites of Italy. Nothing could be more instructive for Mrs Thatcher than Signor Andreotti's method of outflanking the Germans, while giving them no cause for offence.

The outcome of the Venice talks matters less

than that such old enemies should sit round the same table in reasonable amity. Nobody should expect nations freed so recently (and in Yugoslavia's case, not yet completely) from subservience to an alien ideology promptly to submit to another supra-national federation, with ominous historical antecedents. But though it would be unjust to blame all the misfortunes of central Europe on nationalism — both National Socialism and Marxism-Leninism were imperialistic ideologies — the pentagonal association is at least one insurance policy against national or ethnic strife.

Signor Andreotti has been criticised for diverting attention away from the European Community's own half-hearted Ostpolitik. But if Community policy continues to be invisible, individual countries which cultivate central Europe are bound to shine.

The peoples who live beyond the eastern frontiers of the European Community know that their lands, unlike East Germany, have long been the poor relations of the West: too long to expect parity within a few years, or even a decade. Another generation may have to pass before living standards in Bratislava, Belgrade or Budapest can bear comparison with those of Brussels, Birmingham or Berlin. The time is not yet ripe for the EC to inherit the legacy of communist misrule in central Europe.

Once Yugoslavia and Poland have held free national elections, however, it will not be too soon to grant the *pentagonale* and Poland some kind of "country member" or associate status. At least, all barriers to trade should be removed. The European Commission has been quick to assert its authority in East Germany since economic union took place last month. Its officials should present a detailed blueprint for the gradual integration of the signatories of the Venice accords and Poland to the Council of Ministers before the end of this year. Since this must include free access for low-cost East European produce to EC markets, the outlook for such a blueprint must be grim.

WIVES ARE NOT PUNCHBAGS

When a man marries a woman, he promises to love, comfort and honour her, to keep her in sickness and in health, and to worship her with his body. Nowhere in the marriage contract is a husband permitted to beat his wife (or she him). Yet for centuries some men have assumed that violence within marriage is more permissible than outside it. That assumption has been implicitly condoned by police reluctance to take domestic violence seriously.

To hit a spouse in a sitting room is no less morally reprehensible than to assault a stranger on the street. Both are violent crimes in which provocation is immaterial. Both victims suffer the same physical pain and risk the same injury. Wives sharing a house with violent husbands are likely to live in constant fear for their safety. Most incidents of domestic violence are repeated, often with increasing severity over time. They are particularly common during a woman's pregnancy. Nearly half of all female murder victims are killed by a husband or lover. Battered wives feel peculiarly vulnerable to violent retribution if they report incidents to the police.

As the Home Office points out in its new guidelines to the police on domestic violence, published yesterday, the police are likely in these cases to be a victim's last, not first, resort. In other words the risk is almost certainly of a serious assault. In such cases the woman badly needs protection by the law, not a shrug and a few conciliatory phrases.

Though some police forces have already set up special domestic violence units and enlightenment is spreading, it is striking that the Home Office feels obliged to remind the police that domestic violence is a crime and that police officers have an overriding duty to protect wives and children from further attack. The circular also makes clear that reports of

domestic violence should not be thrown away, as most of them are, but collated and logged like any other crime record. It recommends that police officers should not try simply to conciliate the partners, that charges should be considered where there is enough evidence to justify a prosecution and that contact should be maintained with the victim to ensure her safety from further assault.

The main difference between domestic violence and other types of violent crime is that prosecution of the offender could do more damage to the relationship than the assault, damaging the whole family irreparably. In some ways the predicament is similar to that in cases of child abuse. Should the police or social workers risk breaking up a family in order to prevent, or punish, a crime? The answer is that battered wives are adults, capable of choosing whether or not to take that risk. Some may want the relationship to end anyway, but dare not leave and cannot persuade their husband to do so.

The police can take action that falls short of criminal proceedings involving a wife giving evidence against her husband. In Streatham, the police have been operating an arrest-and-caution policy for nearly two years, which they claim is a success. More than three-quarters of those cautioned have not reoffended. To be seen by neighbours being taken out of the house by police is a humiliating experience; to spend the night in a police cell is an uncomfortable one.

People who assault their spouses must understand that their victims can expect sympathy from the police, that the violence may lead to arrest and humiliation, and eventually even prosecution. These guidelines send the message home.

Ian Gow's death leaves an Irish crux unresolved

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, Ian Gow's sad friends hope events will speedily show he did not die in vain. To ensure this, the Government should implement his own wise solution to the problem of Northern Ireland. I take the following summary from a letter he wrote to me shortly before he was murdered.

Ian believed, as Conor Cruise O'Brien indicates in his article today, that the IRA is fuelled by continuing uncertainty over Northern Ireland's constitutional position. This is exacerbated by the Anglo-Irish Agreement over which Ian resigned from the Government when it was signed in 1985. He believed it was a mistake to confer on the Irish government the right to represent the nationalist population of Northern Ireland when they have their own elected MPs at Westminster.

He objected to the McGimpsey judgment of the Irish Supreme Court last March, when they held it was the duty of the Irish government to make good the claim in their constitution that Northern Ireland is part of the republic. He believed the Northern Ireland Secretary, Peter Brooke, should press for steps to be taken to remove this obnoxious clause. So far as we know, he has failed to do this.

On Mr Brooke's current initiative to restore devolution by consent Ian objected that

the same government which is resisting an assembly in Edinburgh, on the ground that such an assembly would injure the union, is advocat-

ing an assembly, with the support of the Irish government, in Belfast.

He wisely pointed out there can be no permanent resting place between the policy of retaining Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom and that of transferring it to the republic. When I last spoke to him on June 28 he stressed that there can be no half-way house between the union and the republic. It is one or the other.

Yet Peter Brooke's current aim is to set up a series of meetings which will lead, and I quote his own words, to a system which "gives a role for both sides of the community". The only role the nationalist side seek is to work towards leading the territory into the republic. The only role the unionist side seek is to keep it within, and make it a fully-operative part of, the United Kingdom.

One or other of these you can have, but not both. It is a logical impossibility, and "talks" aimed at a compromise are therefore useless. Moreover the vain prospect of them impedes the true solution.

In a letter you published on May 23 I suggested that the British Government should stop shilly-shallying and declare its firm intention of treating Northern Ireland henceforth as an integral part of the United Kingdom, Ian agreed this would be right, but no such declaration has been made. On the contrary, the shilly-shallying continues. For this the

Government bears a weighty responsibility.

So in memory of Ian Gow I would ask Mrs Thatcher and her Government immediately to abandon the unstated (but clearly signalled) belief that one day Northern Ireland will, by general consent, be handed over to the republic. This flies in the face of all the evidence and is what fatally keeps the IRA's armed struggle alive.

There is much talk of the oxygen of publicity, but covert government signals give a more potent boost. They nourish the terrorist with the oxygen of expectation.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
62 Thames Street, Oxford,
July 31.

From Mr D. E. Afriat

Sir, After the tragic death of Mr Ian Gow may I, as a Labour voter, urge the Labour and SLD parties not to field candidates in the ensuing by-election. Were these opposition parties to participate and, even worse, strengthen their position in this constituency, the IRA would have achieved something.

Although it will be impossible to replace this man for the views he defended to the last, the balance of power in Eastbourne and ultimately Parliament must not be upset by an act of terrorism. The Tories must, I believe, retain this seat uncontested.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. AFRIAT,
24 Combermarin Road, SW18.

Speech therapy

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg and others

Sir, You report (July 24) that Sir Geoffrey Howe urges a bigger role for the elderly in society and that Sally Greengross of Age Concern relates the discrimination they suffer in employment, health care and income.

Elderly people feature significantly among the 2.3 million people in the UK who suffer speech impairment. Every year 30,000 adults lose their power of speech through strokes or head injury alone. In this country at least one child in every primary class cannot communicate effectively.

The majority of these people look to speech therapists as the professionals best qualified to help, yet the average waiting list for treatment is 200 people. The Department of Health's own recent study shows this service to be provided on a variable and ad hoc basis. It recommends a major review of the situation.

We draw attention to a statement of these facts issued by Vocal (Voluntary Organisations Communication and Language) which represents all major charities in the UK whose members suffer some degree of speech problem. It urges the Government to take the lead now in ensuring resources for such a review.

Yours faithfully,
SIGMUND STERNBERG
(President, Vocal),
JACK ASHLEY,
CAMPBELL OF CROY,
DAVID ENNALS,
HARRIET HAMAN,
SAMUEL PHILLIPS,
BERNARD WEATHERILL,
Star House,
Grafton Road, NWS,
July 24.

Distance learning

From the Principal of the College of Estate Management

Sir, The supposition that a professional qualification is a prerequisite for a successful career is reflected in the growing number of those already in employment who are undertaking distance-taught courses. The College of Estate Management, for instance, now has over 6,000 students worldwide enrolled on pre and post-qualification courses. This number is greater than that of over half the universities in the country, taken individually.

"Distance learning", however, is rapidly becoming a misnomer since the printed word forms only a part of the teaching media available. Audio tapes, videos, and, imminently, satellite broadcasting are all taking this increasingly popular route to qualification closer to the student.

Nevertheless, our experience is that the best results can be obtained from courses which incorporate an element of face-to-face teaching. Such courses satisfy many students who are unwilling to forgo several years of professional experience while undertaking a full-time degree course.

Yours faithfully,
P. W. HUNTSMAN, Principal,
The College of Estate Management,
Whiteknights,
Reading, Berkshire,
July 18.

Game management

From Mr Peter Taylor

Sir, Further to David Parkinson's letter (July 28) concerning the laying of poisoned baits to kill the predators of game birds, *The Complete Book of Game Conservation* quotes a survey of partridge nest losses from 1948-1959 and shows that losses caused by farm activities, such as grass cutting, outnumber those from winged predators, foxes, badgers and rats added together.

Yours sincerely,
PETER TAYLOR,
Longwood House,
Minsterclay,
Northumberland,
July 30.

All-night sittings

From Mr Michael Ryle

Sir, The occasional all-night sittings of the House of Commons for backbencher debates are not as absurd as your leading article (July 26) suggests. The need for the Government to obtain the sanction of the Commons for its expenditure by the passage of consolidated fund and appropriation Bills has secured valuable opportunities for backbenchers. The ancient principle of considering grievances at the time of supply (annual authorisation of expenditure) is still preserved. Members of all parties are enabled to ask awkward questions or to raise issues that trouble their constituents.

You argue that time could be found for these debates at more civilised hours, but time in the chamber is strictly limited. A transfer would mean less time for the Government or opposition or reduced opportunities for other backbenchers' business. None of these solutions would be acceptable to those affected.

There are only three of these debates each session. Although they may be tiresome for the few members and rather more staff directly involved, and for their families (having endured many all-nighters when I was a clerk in the Commons, I know only too well what this means), they have very little impact on the lives of the great majority of members.

Contrary to what you say in your leader, no members have to "wait wearily to register their votes on a three-line whip in the small hours of the morning" as

there is no vote at the end of these debates. They can hardly be blamed for the deteriorating health of some members or for their marital problems.

These opportunities to call ministers to account should not be lightly surrendered; it is not the "phantom" you describe.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RYLE,
Jasmine Cottage, Winsford,
Minehead, Somerset,
July 28.

From Mr Patrick Thompson, MP

for Norwich North (Conservative)

Sir, Parliament may be absurd — but not quite as absurd as your leader suggests. Only those MPs involved stay up for all-night sittings. My debate this week on global warming began at 5 am and was attended by three backbenchers. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, David Heathcoat Amory, the opposition spokesman and the Whip. Everyone spoke except the Whip.

I agree that there is a case for reforming parliamentary procedures and reducing the number of late sittings. Perhaps we should enact less legislation. However there are many MPs, including myself, without outside paid employment of any kind, who find the morning invaluable for dealing with constituency case work, reading in the House of Commons library or attending meetings with ministers.

Yours etc.,
PATRICK THOMPSON,
House of Commons,
July 26.

Defence policy

From Dr David Lowry

Sir, The criticism you make (leading article, July 26) of the parliamentary procedural device known as the Consolidated Fund Bill, allowing backbench MPs to challenge an array of government policies in an overnight sitting, is well-founded, especially the point you make concerning the requirement in a civilised parliament to timetable such opportunities sensibly.

During last Monday's "debate", Labour MP Bob Cryer raised the important matter of the United Kingdom's responsibilities to be actively involved in nuclear disarmament negotiations as a depository power for the 1970 nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). This treaty will enjoy its fourth quinquennial review conference in Geneva, beginning on August 20.

Sir Geoffrey Howe in reply managed to state that the Government fully supported the aims of the NPT, whilst simultaneously reasserting the present defence policy of dependence "in part on nuclear deterrence" (Hansard, July 23, cols 97 and 106). The treaty formally commits its nuclear weapons signatories to

negotiate away their nuclear arsenals.

The challenge to the Government's inconsistent policy on the NPT ought to have come from the Opposition front bench in defence and foreign affairs debates, not from a lone backbencher. Part of the problem lies therefore with the Shadow Cabinet's weakness, as much as upon present parliamentary procedure.

Mr King in announcing his defence review had the opportunity to unveil a real move towards nuclear disarmament by reducing the Trident force, or else postponing, if not cancelling, the proposal for replacement for free-fall nuclear bombs. He did neither.

So from August 20 in Geneva, the UK will be put in the diplomatic dock by 137 non-nuclear weapon state members of the NPT for reneging on nuclear disarmament commitments. The defence review is a great lost opportunity in more ways than one.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LOWRY,
The Open University,
Faculty of Technology,
Energy and Environment
Research Unit, Walton Hall,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire,
July 26.

Economic advisers

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, Ronald Butt (article, July 30) speaks for himself when he imputes to Mrs Thatcher the view that Sir Alan Walters is "simply being awkward in continuing to recite his creed" of opposition to the philosophers' stone of ERM, EMS and EMU.

What Mr Butt seems to be saying is not only that convenience should have priority over truth and politics over policy, but that when a political leader is obliged by force majeure to adopt policies which run counter to her better judgment, the job of advisers and commentators is to switch their previous stand and argue for them.

It is relevant in this context that Sir Alan was chosen as economic adviser to Mrs Thatcher, a newly-created post which I was instrumental in having created, and in his choice as incumbent precisely because of what Mr Butt calls his "awkwardness", but which I called integrity.

In 1979, John Hoskyns and I decided that since the Treasury team and its advisers had been swallowed alive by the Treasury knights, the PM needed an adviser of her own who was strong enough to close his ears to their siren-song.

I drew up specifications for the choice of an adviser under five headings, of which the fifth was a knowledge of economics largely to enable him to argue with other economists — and the first four were personal qualities which Mr Butt would sum up as awkwardness without which technical knowledge of economics would be useless.

For 1981, 1982 and the first half of 1983, Walters achieved much single-handed against the Keynesian consensus. Had he not returned to the USA for family reasons, Nigel Lawson would not have been allowed to undermine the economy from 1983.

I remain, etc.,
ALFRED SHERMAN,
10 Gerald Road, SW1,
July 30.

After Canterbury, who for London?

From the Archdeacon of York

Sir, Most Catholics in the Church of England will be relieved and delighted to know that we are to have an Archbishop of Canterbury who will uphold traditional biblical standards in faith and morality.

In this we are all allies and he would do well to consider his position in a church from which we faced exclusion. The threat arises from the unlikely prospect of his diocesan comments that opponents of the ordination of women should consider leaving the Church becoming official policy. But they have certainly caused concern, and made it even more imperative that an Anglo-Catholic be appointed to the diocese of London, lest Catholics become further marginalised.

The London appointment will now occupy the minds of the Crown Appointments Commission, and we can only hope they will be as adventurous (and as speedy) as they were for Canterbury.

Having leap-frogged — both for this time and next — all those bishops whose appointments have been castigated by Canon Gary Bennett in his *Crockford's* Preface, the temptation will be to offer London as a consolation prize. This would be a disastrous mistake: the liberal dominance of the 1970s and 1980s and the mayhem and distress which it caused among ordinary churchgoers hopefully became past history with the appointment of George Carey, and the Commission must have sufficient courage not to make any kind of about-turn.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
7 Lang Road,
Bishopthorpe, York,
July 31.

Lords of the manor

From Mr Raymond Franks

Sir, You report (July 28) that the new Lord of the Manor of Henley-in-Arden, Mr Joseph Hardy, intends to "take the title of Lord Hardy". I should like to point out that the assumption of such a title by a lord of the manor is grossly improper.

The correct expression of title for a manorial lordship would be "Mr Joseph Hardy, Lord of Henley-in-Arden". The "Mr" and "of" are essential to avoid confusion with a member of the peerage. Lord of the manor is a title of property, not of precedence.

Mr Hardy may well escape censure in America, where these matters are not properly understood, but he would be well advised not to attempt to adopt the title of Lord Hardy in this country.

Yours faithfully,
R. FRANKS
(Lord of Barwick-in-Elmet and Thorne),
Hillcrest House, Manor Gardens,
Thorne, West Yorkshire.

Conditioned reflex

From Mr Ralph Glazer

Sir, Before posting me to Peking as their man in China, British Airways sent me to school for a year's intensive study of Mandarin Chinese. Hoping to accelerate the learning process through subliminal absorption, I took to listening to the language tapes every night as I fell asleep, but to no apparent effect until, that is, I reached Peking, when in my early days I would fall asleep whenever I heard Chinese spoken.

Yours sincerely,
RALPH GLAZER,
77 Shaftesbury Crescent,
Laleham,
Staines, Middlesex,
July 26.

Suitable dress

From Dr John Doherty

Sir, Your leading article (July 28) defending the right of Bournemouth policemen to wear shorts in the heatwave coincides with Jonathan Meades's report (Saturday Review) of his difficulties in gaining admission to a restaurant, on a sweltering day, because he was not wearing a tie.

Sartorial rules, however, can be just as complex in hotter climates. Having lived in Zaire I thought I was well prepared for a move to tropical north Queensland. I knew that shorts are acceptable, but only with long socks, and that safari suits are worn without a shirt.

All went well until I heard that that year's (1978) debutantes were due to be ceremonially presented to the local bishop, the local member of parliament, and myself (the local doctor). This, I was warned, was a formal occasion. Anxious not to offend, I enquired what this implied. "No bare feet, mate", came the crisp response.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DOHERTY,
44 Wellmeadow Lane,
Uppermill,
Oldham, Lancashire,
July 30.

From Mrs Sue Conway

Sir, Why should Bournemouth's policemen not wear shorts?

Last summer along fashionable Venice Beach in California we encountered a police patrol dressed in uniform shirts, shorts, gun belts, night sticks, mirror sunglasses — and on roller skates.

Yours faithfully,
SUE CONWAY,
Sleepers Lee, Airline Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

MEDIA

Here comes the radio revolution

The first steps in the re-alignment of British network radio are now less than a month away. On the summer bank holiday (August 27) the BBC opens Radio 5, in the place now occupied by medium wave Radio 2, and sweeps under its ample umbrella most of the sport and education which jostles for space across the BBC's established networks. The new dispositions will allow the BBC to surrender, when government calls, the medium wave frequencies now used by Radio 3, as well as those of Radio 1. These together with a freshly-engineered commercial VHF network, will provide spots on the dial for three new advertiser-based competitors, soon to be sought by the Radio Authority.

Detailed Radio 5 schedules will be made public next week, but the pattern is already clear. Gaps left by what education and sport normally provide will be filled by some judicious borrowing from the *World Service*, a concert around midday from Radio 3 and a limited amount of new programming, particularly at breakfast time and during the evening. New money for new programming is scarce, and likely to be even more so if the government sticks to its present intention of reining back on licence-fee

indexation; so Patricia Ewing, the controller charged with getting Radio 3 up and running, has about £4,000 a day to deploy on new programmes and the people to make them. The accent will be on children and youth, but in a classless sense. The new network is unlikely to ape the knowing fashionability that delimits BBC television programmes put out under the banner of "yoo!"

Radio 5 may take some time to find its feet, not least because the ground it treads is constantly shifting. School term does not begin until September 17, which leaves a gap for a stand-in programme for three initial weeks only: it then goes away to return as term ends. And term times are not synchronous across the ages; the Open University, for instance, starts and then runs on later in the year. Sport is, if anything, even more inimicable to steady scheduling; arguments about rights complicate the question of who has what, and when. Of course such chopping and changing is usual enough in the world of terrestrial television, where the seasons come and go with increasing rapidity; in radio, however, where the emphasis is on finely-honed formats, it has an air of swimming against the tide.

The most novel feature of the new channel is that it pushes educationalists

centre-stage. Education has always felt the least-favoured element in broadcasting's trinity of "inform, educate and entertain". In consequence, educationalists have often seemed more eager to hang on to territory for its own sake than to define and re-define what they need it for. Now - at least for radio - space pressures, and the excuses they allow, are removed. There is a better chance to shine, and also a greater need.

In the short term, the start-up of Radio 5 poses problems for those it displaces, the medium-wave listeners to Radio 2. They now have to look for their fare on VHF only. The BBC has been signalling the change since the beginning of the year, when the Radio 2 audience was split fairly evenly between medium-wave and VHF listening. Already 16 per cent have made the change. Reminders will be stepped up over the next three and a half weeks, but some measure of snarl-up is unavoidable. Radio 2's listenership is on the older side, and so less nimble with finger and eye than the young, who take technological switching

for granted. The timing is particularly unfortunate in London, where Lord Hanson has recently entered the lists with Melody Radio, virtually seamless "useful"

music, clearly designed to try to seduce those enjoying Radio 2. Melody Radio is close to Lord Hanson's heart, closer probably than PowerGen; it keeps all talk to a minimum, reflecting the proprietor's deep antipathy to disc-jockeys. There are, as yet, no reliable audience figures, but if Melody catches on, Lord Hanson will probably want to make a network bid extending Melody across the nation. And he seems to be a persuasive bidder.

But, as commercial applicants begin to muster, one underlying puzzle confronts them and Lord Chalfont's Radio Authority. The authority has won the right to indicate in broad terms the sorts of networks it would like; otherwise the three top bidders might all opt for variants of light music. It is assumed there will be a popular music channel, a talk-based network, and a light classical. But which operation picks up the quality-sound benefits of the one VHF opportunity, and its greater costs? Radio logic points to music of a classical bent, but market economics warns of a modest audience, least likely to make a go of it. The much-canvassed challenger to Radio 3 may yet get pushed aside in the entrepreneurial rush.

BROADCAST

Brian Wenham

Print that stays in your head is a good slogan, Andrew Lycett says, but it is a headache for paper makers

Just over a year ago, while he was opening an extension to the Varn complex, which makes press chemicals near Manchester, Prince Edward wondered when publishers would start producing newspapers with ink which did not come off on the readers' hands. "Next month," said Alister Smith, the services director of Associated Newspapers, who was standing beside him.

Associated, the publisher of the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and *Evening Standard*, was beginning its experiments on flexography, a printing process that uses water-based inks instead of the usual oil ones. One result is that the ink stays in the newspaper. In the jargon of the industry, flexography has low rub-off, or high rub resistance.

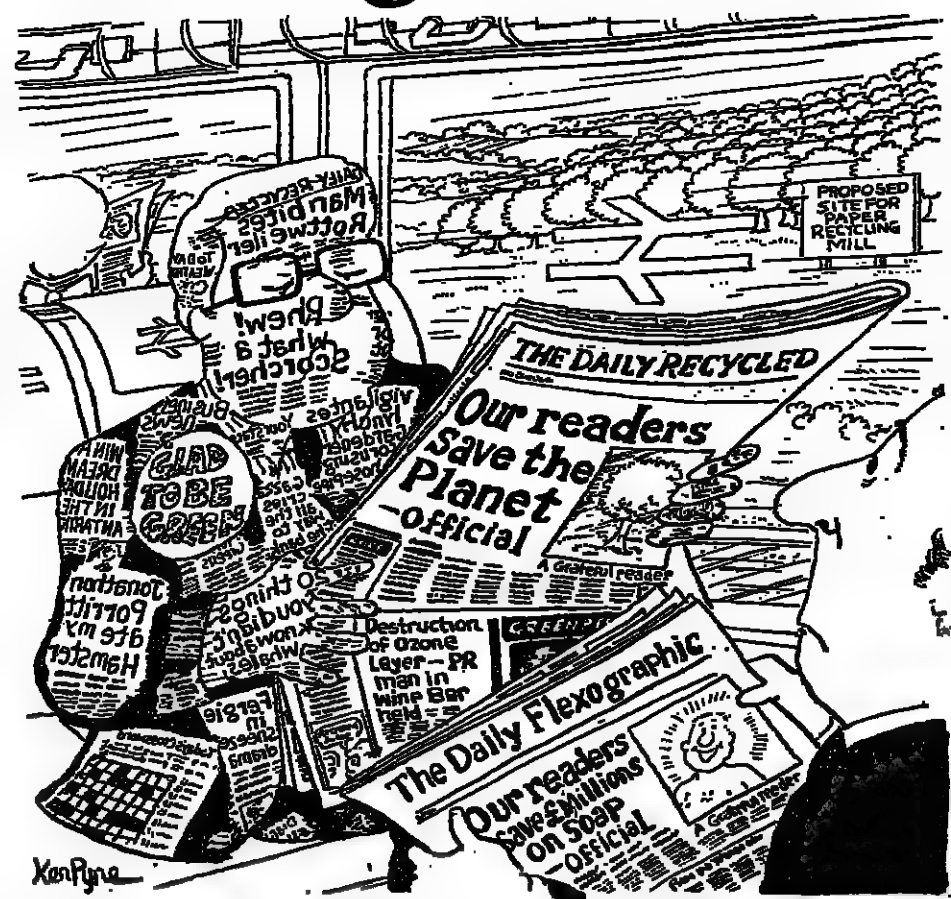
This month, Associated will celebrate one year of continuous production of its titles on flexographic presses at Harnsworth Quays in Rotherhithe, south-east London. The advertising campaign is now familiar: "What we print stays in your head not on your hands."

But flexography has a drawback which is causing problems in the paper industry, as well as alarming the green movement. Because of their adhesiveness to paper fibres, flexo inks are difficult to remove when newsprint is recycled. Since such paper is now demanded by newspaper readers (along with low, or even no-rub print), a conflict of interest arises.

There is pressure in the United States for more recycled newsprint. State governments are concerned about the destruction of forests and the growing problem of waste. Paper accounts for about 30 per cent of waste in the industrial world.

The British government is encouraging publishers to move to recycled paper on a

Is non-rub print making its mark?



manufactured by Reedpack, at Aylesford, in Kent.

Increased demand clearly influenced the recent decision by Abitibi-Price, the Canadian forest products group, to build a £200 million plant to make 100 per cent recycled paper, at Gartcosh, near Glasgow. Significantly, *The Daily Telegraph*, owned by the Canadian

Conrad Black, and Robert Maxwell's *Mirror Group Newspapers*, each own 25 per cent of the venture. Gartcosh will convert 270,000 tons of old newspapers and magazines into 220,000 tons of high quality newsprint a year.

About half the 730,000 tons of newsprint manufactured each year at the three main

mills in Britain - at Shotton, North Wales, on Merseyside and at Aylesford - is recycled. Roy Cogger, the general manager of Reedpack at Aylesford, says: "We have a problem with removing flexo-ink with our existing technology and we are having to make investments to cope with recycling the products of existing flexo publishers, who account for 10 per cent of the market." (This is mostly Associated Newspapers.)

De-inking usually involves a process which brings inks to the surface of a soapy fibre porridge. These inks can then be removed, coagulated and, in plants such as Shotton, burnt. However, the particles in flexo inks are often too fine to be removed this way. They require additional rinsing with water and also, sometimes, more chemical treatment. Since the water then has to be disposed of, this raises costs and creates potential for environmental harm.

Mike Woolten, the paper director at Associated's Harnsworth Quays plant, argues that the benefits of recycling may have been overplayed. The collection of old paper uses energy and it is made first from forests which consume carbon dioxide, one of the main greenhouse gases. He adds: "Provided the mills keep flexo papers to less than 15 per cent of the total mix, there is no problem."

Now, with the help of experiments by ink manufacturers, non-flexo publishers are developing their own low-rub inks. Moving to wet offset improves rub resistance because there is less ink on the paper. (All five News International titles should be printed in this way by the start of next year.) De-inking has come a long way since the days when, as Mike Hehir, the sales director of Shotton, recalls, "you could read the print on the paper second time around".

The other news, at 10.30

comedy, which lifts the lid on what really happens off air at Globelink News. The title is studio jargon for replacing a minor story when a longer one overruns its time slot.

The satire, researched in BBC and ITN newsrooms and based in part on anecdotes from broadcast journalists, revolves around the antics of seven characters, including Damien Day (Stephen Tompkinson), notorious for his questionable news-gathering tactics as he dashes around the world.

The antagonistic relationship between Globelink's two newscasters, Henry Davenport (David Swift) and Sally Smedley (Victoria Wicks), sets the scene for some priceless gags.

What makes *Drop the Dead Donkey* original is its topicality. Episodes will be recorded eight hours before transmission, so its humour can reflect the day's news. Up to three minutes of dialogue can be re-recorded and inserted into the show at the last minute.

Dialogue can be changed at the last minute if events suddenly turn humorous into bad taste. "Fortunately, our libel lawyer has a sense of humour," says Andy Hamilton, the series producer and co-writer, whose other credits include *Not the Nine O'Clock News* and *Who Dares Wins*.

Mr Hamilton is anxious to avoid comparison between his characters and real-life newscasters. But he says: "I don't suppose broadcast journalists will take this too well."

MELINDA WHITSTOCK

Drop the Dead Donkey can be seen at 10.30pm each Thursday from August 9 on Channel 4.



News Producers

BBC South & East

Radio Sussex

From Worthing and Eastbourne to Crawley and Gatwick, Sussex has a lot of news to offer. It's party conferences, pollution and commuters as well as the South Downs and seaside holidays and in the coming months, the BBC Radio Sussex newsroom will embark on a number of exciting new projects, including an all speech breakfast show and a drive time news programme.

We need two News Producers - enthusiastic team leaders - innovative ideas people with experience, excellent news sense and imagination, to launch these new programmes.

Adaptable, flexible self-starters, we'll expect you to have the ability to work quickly and accurately and to write sharp copy. You'll also need first-class presentation skills and a good microphone voice, but most of all, you'll need to keep a cool head under pressure.

You should also hold a current driving licence. One of these posts is offered as a twelve month contract, salary £13,030 - £18,242 p.a. plus an allowance of £1,326 p.a. Based Brighton. Applications welcomed from all people regardless of gender, race or disability. For an application form please telephone 081-207 8983 (24 hours) quoting ref. 2478/T.

Application forms to be returned by August 12th.

BBC In The Midlands 'East Midlands Today'

The BBC In The Midlands is offering an exciting opportunity for editorial staff to become part of a team which will create the BBC's first daily news programme outside of London in 25 years.

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Regional Journalists

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Salary up to £18,242 plus unsociable hours allowance of £770 p.a. (Ref. 7506/T)

Planning Journalist

This is essentially a journalist's post with the specific and vital role of helping to organise news coverage for *East Midlands Today*, setting up live links and assigning crews. Applicants must have good news sense, an awareness of the needs of television and strong organisational and research abilities.

Salary up to £18,242 plus unsociable hours allowance of £770 p.a. (Ref. 7507/T)

For more details contact News Editor East Midlands, Peter Lowe on 0602 42395. For an application form (quote appropriate ref.) please call 021-414 5931 (24 hour answerphone).

Application forms to be returned by August 17th.



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For further information contact Robin Morris, Chief Planning Officer, Tel: (0244) 823133.

Job Description and Application Form from: Personnel Services Section, Alyn and Deeside District Council, Council Offices, Glynn Way, HAWARDEN, Deeside, Chwyd, CH5 3NU. Tel: (0244) 531212, Ext. 251. Closing date: Monday, 20th August 1990.

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Please specify reference number 27/90. Closing date: Friday, August 17.

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Handwritten signature: J. J. J. J.



After yesterday's warning that benefit changes may sentence people to the streets, Daniel Treisman and Jill Sherman investigate the 'lost' families of bedsitter-land

No particular place to go



The heart of the matter: nurse Ruth Constance, of the Bayswater family doctors' practice, with Maria Desousa and her baby daughter

Musa Issa Hadsan lost track of her husband and four of her children when she fled into the Somali bush two years ago as civil war swept her country. Now she lives with her other three children in two rooms of a bed-and-breakfast hotel in Shepherd's Bush.

She is one of 1,500 homeless people — 60 per cent of them immigrants and refugees — catered for by a pilot medical clinic which provides care to the cramped inhabitants of west London's densely popu-

lated bedsitter-land.

The Bayswater Family Doctors' Practice distributes leaflets and posters to the bed-and-breakfast hotels of Sussex Gardens and other streets around Paddington. Nineteen local doctors take time from their own practices to do weekly or monthly shifts, for a fee of £40 per session.

Sixteen hundred families live in temporary accommodation in Bayswater, according to Westminster council. Numerous London boroughs place their homeless families in the area. Bayswater

has a large stock of Victorian houses, which were easily converted into bed-and-breakfast hotels, initially to cater for travellers coming to Paddington station. More recently, the hotels have become convenient places for housing officers from other boroughs, short of local accommodation, to lodge their homeless.

The immigrants, many of whom speak little English and have four or five children, have difficulty registering with local GPs, who are often reluctant to tackle entire families which have to be

immunised and screened for TB and tropical diseases.

"They could go to five or six GPs and no one would take them on their list," says Dr Uma Ravinthran, the administrator of the practice. "Many were using accident-and-emergency or casualty clinics. Others had no care."

The practice, set up in January 1989 as a three-year joint project by Parkside Health Authority and the Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster Family Practitioners committee, treats 100 patients each week, 60 per

cent of them children. The Kings Fund (the King Edward VII Hospital Fund for London) has provided £150,000.

An interpreter fluent in Arabic, and Somali and Sudan languages is available, and an interpreter comes in to translate for Angolan patients. A health visitor and a housing officer also pay weekly visits.

The aim of the clinic is to treat homeless people for a maximum of nine months, until they can find a permanent doctor or be taken on by one of the 19 volunteer GPs. "But we don't turn anyone away," Dr Ravinthran says. "Yesterday we had a man who had been helping someone who was mugged. He had been bitten and needed a tetanus shot." They do, however, turn away drug addicts who wander in hoping for prescriptions after visiting the free needle exchange next door.

Dr Yousuf Ibrahim, aged 42, leaves his practice in Notting Hill, where his patients are predominantly Russians and eastern Europeans, to do fortnightly shifts at the clinic, treating mostly Bangladeshis. Most have problems such as diabetes and high blood pressure, he says, and 90 per cent of both men and women have peptic ulcers. "I think it's mostly the stress: all living in one room with a big family of four or five children."

At times, his job resembles that of a social worker as much as a doctor. Hours are spent reassuring immigrants who speak little English and writing letters to housing officers explaining the difficulties of arthritis or pregnant women have climbing four storeys to the bathroom. "They helped me very much," Mrs Hadsan said through a translator. "Before I came I had very serious high blood pressure and glandular fever. It's a nice clinic." She, too, needed a letter to help her change her housing.

Maria Desousa, aged 21, says a north London GP had taken her onto his list for a maximum 15 days when she arrived, pregnant and with a bad case of influenza. Now, with her husband Carlos and five-month-old baby, she is a patient at the practice. "It was a lot easier down here. We were very lucky," she says.

The family have shared a dusty, third-floor room in the Kavanagh Court Hotel in Bayswater since they complained that the dampness of their council house in Stratford endangered the health of their baby. They are worried now that the baby may injure herself on the knives and kitchen appliances they have to keep in their single room.

"The case worker phoned up to say he had very good news," Carlos says. "When we went in he said: 'you can get a flat in 15 to 18 months.'"

They share the Kavanagh Court Hotel with immigrants from India, Nigeria, Greece, Angola and a few young English women: a cross-section of Bayswater's homeless community.

According to Westminster council, the borough has 1,605 families in bed-and-breakfast accommodation — the largest such concentration in Britain. But of these, only 263 come from the borough. Others are placed there by 14 other boroughs, including Lambeth (241 families), Hammersmith (192), Ealing (183), Haringey (157) and Hackney (114).

"We reckon it costs £2 million a year to educate the children of homeless families staying in Westminster — or an extra £15 a head on the community charge," a spokesman says. In addition, the council's education and welfare service spends about one-third of its time identifying children, finding school places for them and making sure they attend, at a cost of £95,000 a year. Once the families are given housing in Bayswater, Westminster council becomes responsible for educational needs and social welfare. "We would like to see some means of recharging the other boroughs so we can recoup some of that expense," he says.

The politics of poverty

Dr Richard Stone, one of the founders of the Bayswater Family Doctors Practice, believes that the government is ignoring the plight of homeless families in its efforts to deal with the more "visible" homeless, the young single people who beg on London's pavements.

Ministers have recently announced a series of initiatives, including a £15 million grant from the environment department, to help homeless young people in London. But a report yesterday from the Social Security Advisory Committee warns that benefit claimants are still at risk of accommodation because hotel proprietors and landlords are not prepared to wait for housing benefit cheques to come through, which can take several months. In addition, changes in benefit for the 18 to 25-year-olds mean that claimants often cannot afford housing costs.

Dr Stone suggests that the government is deliberately targeting the more evident and potentially politically damaging aspects of homelessness. "It is embarrassing for middle-class white people on their way to a concert at the Festival Hall to trip over young people sleeping in cardboard boxes," he says.

While the environment department is spending money to get youngsters off the streets, it is taking money away from homeless families, he insists. He cites the recent withdrawal of an annual £15,000 grant for one homeless project in Bayswater.

Figures from the environment department show that last March local authorities had to find homes for 37,470 households (mainly families) in England, up almost 6,000 from the previous quarter. Nearly 10,000 of these were accepted by London authorities. More than 12,000 people were living in bed-and-breakfast accommodation last March, 7,800 of them in London.

In inner and greater London, the official number of homeless households jumped from 16,579 in 1979 to 33,610 in 1989. These numbers include only priority groups which local authorities have to house under the Housing Act 1985. They tend to exclude single people and childless couples. Dr Stone claims there are now up to 2,000 families living in bed-and-breakfast accommodation in Bayswater alone.

The problem is spreading to other inner-city areas, although workers in the field believe official national figures to be uncertain. Reasons for homelessness included breakdown of relationships with relatives and friends, rent arrears, loss of private dwelling and loss of tenancies.

"We have become overwhelmed with the problems of homeless families," Dr Stone says. "There are 7,000 people without homes in the quarter of a mile between my surgery and Paddington station. I find it galling that while we are encouraged to provide preventative health care, other government departments are creating more and more homeless families every year." In 1980 20,000 new council houses, or homes offered by housing associations, were available in Greater London; this has now dropped to fewer than 1,000.

Providing health care for homeless families is fraught with difficulties, mainly because of their temporary status — 60 per cent of these families move on every month, Dr Stone says. Most of them do not want to go to a GP, and when they do turn up at surgeries they often cause havoc in the appointments system. "A whole family will come in with a sick child, and then the father will say that the two other children have got lice," he says. "That one appointment will throw the system out. Three long-term, permanent families have removed themselves from our list as a result."

The main problem facing Dr Stone's homeless patients is poverty. "Parents come in on Friday saying they have no money for food over the weekend. What am I supposed to do? Dig into my pocket? One voluntary organisation is now setting up a soup kitchen. I thought we had done away with that kind of thing."

The government's new benefit system, which in 1988 abolished extra help for people boarding out and replaced single payments for items such as cookers and beds with the cash-limited social fund, has hit the homeless particularly hard, according to Dr Stone.

"A couple over 18 with two children aged nine and 13 would have got £104.05 before the changes, and now get £75.90. A couple with five children would have lost £64.60 a week from the benefit change, cutting their income to £51," he says.

Dr Stone knows families who live, eat, cook, play and sleep in rooms measuring 10ft by 8ft, containing a wardrobe, sink, bed and one electric point. One child was seriously scalded when he tried to swing from the flex of a kettle running over two pieces of furniture.

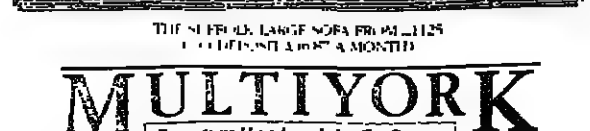
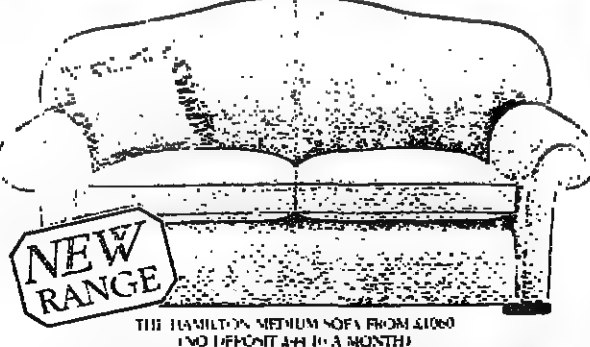
"The plight of homeless families is a serious injustice," he says. "We have to speak out and dispel some of the myths. These people are not trying to milk the system. They are not scavengers or scroungers. No one chooses to be homeless."

Some claim that homeless families deliberately do not want to work, yet Dr Stone says often they are denied jobs because of their temporary residence. Also they can lose work because they cannot afford the transport costs. "They are blocked in every direction," he says. "They have lost control over every aspect of their lives, and are completely demoralised."

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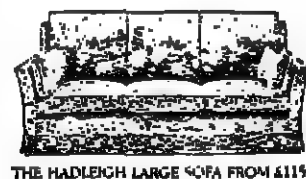
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ARTS

TELEVISION

Awful living legacy of a dictator

THE best documentaries are often the least sensational: for *Viewpoint 90* (Central for ITV), Patricia Ingrams' film about the orphanages of Romania was a quiet, careful study with pictures that will live in the nightmares of the mind long after the flashier news film of a few months ago has been forgotten. For the true legacy of the late President Ceausescu is the children: 100,000 of them, abandoned by parents who had been forced to have five per family in the 18 years since contraception and abortion were banned.

Nearly 1,000 children have been infected with Aids viruses because they were given unscreened blood through dirty hypodermics. Many more are retarded, living in homes run by accountants because the old regime was an administrative and bureaucratic nightmare which did not bother much with doctors or nurses or the training thereof.

Near one so-called clinic, in fact the ground floor of an already derelict tower block of flats, a Greek chorus of townswomen gathered to tell the camera of children eating leaves and drinking from puddles because they were given no other water. A more flamboyant or combative filmmaker might have sought out those responsible under the previous management. Ingrams merely focused on the children of a morally and economically bankrupt nation trying to put itself together again with no infrastructure of medical or psychiatric care.

Drugs, vitamins, antibiotics, syringes, clothes, shoes and wheelchairs are all in desperately short supply. So, too, is sustained help for the medically and mentally ill, the people who were buried by Ceausescu in institutions from which, even now, they have no real way of escape.

British aid volunteers told a bleak story of the victimisation of children who are buried too deep in a system which may, for economic reasons, change too slowly to give them any real hope of a new life. A whole nation has to be rebuilt with doctors and psychiatrists trained to look after their own people; it will take years. The foreign volunteers can only draw the map, they cannot themselves make the journey.

With Channel 4 continuing its own descent into hell with *A TV Dante*, and BBC screening a documentary on rare animals of western Australia, there were not many laughs around last night, least of all in *The Upper Hand*, an ITV sitcom. This seems to have reached 14 episodes without my viewing help and may have to go on that way for at least another 40. Loosely based on an American original about a male houseboy having amorous adventures with his female employer, the show has evidently lost something in translation. Maybe, given current American television preoccupations, he was meant to be a teenage mutant ninja turtle, or a gremlin from outer space. Here he is Joe McGinn, an amiably butch wide-boy surrounded by leftover characters from other scripts: last night Honor Blackman popped up in the old Dinah Sheridan role from *Don't Walk Up* and Betty Marsden as a road-show Lady Bracknell.

Nicky Henson looked understandably uneasy as a pig-tailed maker of wildlife documentaries; they probably would have much better dialogue than this random and shambling attempt to separate 8.30 from 9pm in the summer schedules. It ended, mysteriously enough, with a small child staring hopelessly into a goldfish bowl, as if something might be going to happen there. He will probably grow up to be a television critic.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

DANCE: INTERVIEW

Spheres of influence

David Bintley, whose ballet on Holst's suite *The Planets* is premiered at Covent Garden tonight, previews the work with Debra Craine

THE extraordinary popularity of *The Planets* should, theoretically, make it a natural choice as a ballet score. Certainly other choreographers have been attracted to Holst's stirring orchestral suite in the past. Antony Tudor foremost among them. But only now, 75 years after it was written, is an English choreographer finally attempting the definitive dance version of one of the best-known British compositions of the 20th century. First, though, David Bintley has had to overcome the work's very popularity, the fact that at least one of its big tunes is known to almost every schoolchild in the land.

"It's so much a part of the English musical psyche," says Bintley, the Royal Ballet's 32-year-old resident choreographer. "What I've tried to do is look at the music completely afresh, as though it had been written yesterday." While the familiarity of Holst's suite may draw in the crowds (the Royal Opera House reports *The Planets* has attracted unusually heavy advance bookings for a one-act ballet), it is also a barrier between the choreographer and his audience. "For the first time I have written quite a lengthy programme note. One of the problems is that people do know it so well they might expect to see certain things; that has deterred me a little bit in the past from doing it."

The scale of Holst's music is also a deterrent, with its costly requirement for a massive orchestra and chorus, luxuries many theatres cannot afford. Then, too, there is the unintended association the work has picked up along the way. "Jupiter is a problem because it is English folk music and Elgarian patriotic hymns, and it is supposed to be Jupiter when it really has got nothing to do with the god of jollity," says Bintley. "I have done exactly what the music has said and I have ignored the title."

So audiences who might fairly expect to see the seven planets (Earth is left out and Pluto had not been discovered in 1915) personified as the gods of classical mythology — which is how Holst

handled them — could be disappointed that Bintley has chosen to ignore the obvious connection. In his 50-minute ballet, Mars is not literally the "Bringer of War", Jupiter is not the "Bringer of Jollity", and Saturn is not the "Bringer of Old Age". "They are not characters, not gods, they are different moods. I have tried to get to the heart of each piece as I see it so that audiences are under no confusion as to what I am trying to say with each piece."

The mood of Venus is peaceful, Mars is "seven minutes of chaos", while in some cases, Uranus for instance, "We have been quite radical, quite cheeky with what we are doing. People forget that it is actually a very crude and humorous and almost shocking piece." As for Jupiter, which posed the biggest challenge, "I think I have managed to dispel the unfortunate accretion of 'I Vow To Thee My Country'. The important thing is not to portray emotions but to generate those emotions in the audience. There is no acting. What I am trying to do is manipulate the audience."

Connotations of the first world war in the music are inescapable for Bintley, just as they were for the composer, but this ballet will not be about soldiers and battles. "Holst did say that it was a prophecy about the first world war. What he is really talking about is not columns of marching men, but he is talking about world cataclysm; he is talking about a landscape, a landscape like the Sonoma, and the inhumanity of that war."

"I am actually thinking of this landscape idea like continents moving: volcanoes, earthquakes. There will be people who will not read the programme note and think it is a division of *panzers* coming over the Battle of the Bulge. It is not meant to be that. I was in an earthquake in San Francisco last summer. It was about 5.2 [on the Richter Scale] or something. I was on the 26th storey, it woke me up and the lamps were shaking. Fear and panic is not facing a tank but facing the violence of unstable landscapes, and that is the kind of terror I am trying to get across in Mars."



David Bintley (centre) rehearses *The Planets*: "I am trying to manipulate the audience"

Although only a one-act ballet, *The Planets* is the biggest work the choreographer has ever done. "I use just about everyone in the company. It is bigger than the full-length pieces I have done. There are 42 people on stage in Mars." The work was originally due to premiere in May, but problems with Ralph Koltai's ambitious set forced a postponement when insufficient technical time was allotted to get it ready.

Despite the postponement, says Bintley, the set, with its hydraulic lifts, is not complicated, but big and cumbersome. "The music is big. It is trash, it is positive, and it is magnificent and varied, and that has to be reflected in the choreography, the costumes and the set. I certainly think the design side of it is very rich."

Bintley, who has about two dozen ballets to his credit, was barely a teenager when he first decided he wanted to choreograph *The Planets*. "I'm surprised the ballet has not been done more — and done definitively, if you like. Maybe *The Planets* is not as profound as a late Beethoven quartet, but it certainly does not deserve to be packaged and put away."

● *The Planets forms part of a quadruple bill by The Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Bow Street, London WC2 (see listing, right) tonight, tomorrow and on Friday.*

FINE ART

To the aid of Cézanne's mountain

John Russell Taylor on a French exhibition combining aesthetic and ecological concerns

PROBABLY the best-known feature of the Aix-en-Provence district is not in Aix at all, but lowering over it from a distance: the Montagne Sainte-Victoire. This is largely because of the fascination, virtually the obsession, Aix's most famous son, Paul Cézanne, felt for it. Sadly, today the mountain is but a shadow of its former self, etched in

charcoal: during August last year more than 5,000 hectares were devastated by fire. Cézanne would recognise the shape, but be mystified by the colour.

This year a major exhibition in Aix at the Musée Granat is both a tribute and a rescue operation: *Sainte-Victoire Cézanne 1990* (until September 2) is intended to draw attention to the mountain's

plight and to raise funds for conservation. But it is also an international tribute to Cézanne and the importance of the mountain as a key image in his work. Though he first painted the Montagne Sainte-Victoire in 1870 — in passing, as it were — he did not begin a systematic exploration of its shape, and the way to render its volume in two dimensions, until 1885-86. That was the moment when Cézanne at last really became Cézanne.

Many of his classic depictions of the site are to be found at the Musée Granat, gathered from many parts of the world — some from British collections in a *quid pro quo*, whereby Aix has agreed to lend some of its most pertinent works to the Edinburgh Festival show, *Cézanne and Poussin*. The central contribution of Cézanne is flanked on one side by an anthology of the Montagne Sainte-Victoire in painting before Cézanne took a serious look at it, and on the other by a collection of works on the theme by more modern artists, some paying self-conscious homage to Cézanne, some trying (equally self-consciously) to pretend that Cézanne never existed.

The other museums in Aix are



Obsession: "La montagne Sainte-Victoire", by Paul Cézanne

RADIO

For your ears only, 1968 all over again

JAMES BOND belongs to two different worlds. The film Bond was at home in the jetsetting world of the Sixties, while the book Bond shared the pre-Carnaby Street values of the previous decade. Film Bond stood for garish "camp" excess, while book Bond belonged to a literary tradition down the line from Rider Haggard and John Buchan. But the Sixties film Bond — or rather his conscience-stricken alter ego — is the one whose world is lavishly evoked in a new five-part drama, *The Psychedelic Spy* (Radio 4), by Andrew Rissik.

The story concerns the British agent Hindle, who is sent by his boss, Shark, to "desabilise" a dubious liberal atomic scientist on *Temptation Island* in the Caribbean. Love, treachery and cynicism lie in his path. Set in 1968, the yarn threads its way through the Apollo space programme, the politics of the time and, of course, nostalgic interludes of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Even the cast of the new show is in period: Charles Gray, Joanna Lumley and Gerald Harper all being veterans of Sixties' spy film and television series. Robert Eddison plays the obligatory Oxford academic, while James Aubrey is the agent and the narrator.

Robert Gore-Langton meets the creators of a new radio spy-thriller evoking the "golden age" of fictional secret agents and involving some of those featured in the originals

A journey into the dark heart of the decade, the series cunningly blends together Fleming, Le Carré and Joseph Conrad into what might be described as an original recreation.

Rissik is too young to be a Sixties bore, but he is as erudite a Bond fan as is likely to be found. He recently retired from journalism to concentrate on his own scripts. In the Bond films 007 is only ever to be seen in fighting action or in bed. In this radio series, the life of the moments between has been filled in.

"It always occurred to me that if you ever had a real James Bond, he would probably be as mad as a hatter," says Rissik. "Like a lot of 'Romantic Men', he would be emotionally retarded, perhaps even a raving psychopath. Instead of the usual effortlessly suave, confident, and (as far as the audience is concerned) admirable figure, we have here a hero who is morally fouled up. Hindle is

governed by neuroses, problems and emotional difficulties. "I set it in the Sixties because that was quintessentially the decade of the spy film and I chose specifically the year 1968 because by then the whole thing had turned sour. After the Charles Manson murders and the My Lai massacre, the whole notion of killing for kicks ceased to be funny." Ironically, it was also in 1968 that the first of the pseudo-Bond novels appeared.

In terms of radio technique, Rissik admits to a debt to the childhood records of the *Thunderbirds* puppet series: "Superb drama! Far better than the television shows, because you could not see the wires. It was fast moving and textured dialogue with cleverly textured music and sound."

Likewise, *The Psychedelic Spy* will have an unusual array of special effects, but it is not, as the director Glynn Dearman points

out, a spoof. "It's played absolutely straight — the audience should be able to enjoy it on the spy thriller level. It is just that it has been done in a stylised, filmic way."

The overall attempt has been to make it sound as though it were recorded on location, with music by John Barry (the Bond theme composer) and bits of the period tailored into the script. "The effect of contact music coming in exactly the same way as you would hear in a film," says Dearman, "is that it sounds as if it has been especially scored for the film, something we obviously couldn't afford to do. I have never come across a series in which music has been used in quite this way."

Straight through the drama may be, fans of the period films will thrill to the period detail and to the familiar voices aiming for the intimacy and stylishness of film dialogue rather than the over-elocuted conventions of radio drama. The exotic aural locations of a bygone decade will all seem familiar, the only Nineties note being struck by a secret agent who is now rather bothered by the implications of his licence to kill.

● *The Psychedelic Spy is transmitted in five weekly parts on Thursdays from tomorrow at 11pm on Radio 4.*

CRITICS' CHOICE
DANCE, OPERA AND MIXED MEDIA

DANCE

THE PLANETS: David Bintley's large scale staging of Holst's score, with hydraulically operated sets by Ralph Koltai and costumes by Sue Stone, has its premiere from the Royal Ballet. See features, left. With Kenneth MacMillan's new *pas de deux* for Irak Mukhamedov (his Royal Ballet debut) and Dorey Russell. There's also a new work by William Tuckett to Berg's *Lyric Suite* and Bintley's popular *Penguin Cafe*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, (071-240 1085), today, Thurs and Fri, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm, £1-£25.

ISLAND TO ISLAND: Four days and nights of Indonesian dance and music. A Javanese programme runs tonight and Friday, Indonesian folk music and dance features on Thursday, and there is a Balinese programme plus an all-night Indonesian shadow-puppet show on Saturday. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank (071-928 8800), tonight-Sat, 7.45pm (and 11.30pm on Sat), £4-£12.

LEZ/SHINKA: Colourful dances from Dagestan in the Russian Caucasus. Festival Hall, South Bank (071-928 8800), tonight, Thurs and Fri 7.30pm, £5-£17.50.

UNETSU: New work by Japanese Buto company Sankai Juku. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 332 9000), tomorrow, Fri and Sat, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12.50 (£2).

NOT QUITE CRICKET: New work by Susan Crow for Dance Advance, given with MacMillan's *Sea of Troubles* and Van Solway's *Straps and Signs*. Royal Hall, Harrogate (0423-565757), Thurs, 8pm, £4.50-£10.

ROMEO AND JULIET: Final performances of the Royal Ballet season with Dame Fournes and Stuart Cassidy on Saturday afternoon, and Lesley Collier and Laurent Hlère on Saturday evening. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, (071-240 1085), mat Sat, 2.30pm, £1-£24, 7.30pm, £1-£41.

COPELLIA: Ronald Hynd's attractive production for English National Ballet with Christine Camillo (Mon, Wed) and guest Eva Evdokimova (Tues, Thur). Finsbury Hall, South Bank, (071-928 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £5-£22.

JOHN PERCIVAL

OPERA

ORFEO: Gluck's celebrated opera is presented in the original 1782 Vienna edition, with the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists under conductor John Eliot Gardiner. Derek Lee Ragin takes the title role and Sylvia McNair plays Euridice. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071 823 9986), Aug 15, Wed, 7.30pm, £3.50-£16.

OUTSIDE LONDON

TANCREDI: Voltaire provides the theme for this year's Buxton Festival. Both the opera being presented are based on his stories. Rossini's "heroic melodrama" *Tancredi* is conducted by Anthony Hogg, and Elizabeth Woollett is excellent as Aménarde. Sharncliffe the production. Opera House, Buxton, Derbyshire (0298 72100), tonight and Fri, 7.45pm, £5-£27.50.

FALSTAFF: A revival, by Jenny Weston, of Peter Hall's production of Verdi's comedy first seen in 1958. Claudio Desderi returns as Falstaff and Anne Howell, Yvonne Kenny and Felicity Palmer repeat their highly praised performances as Meg Page, Alice Ford and Mistress Quickly. Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 541111), Thurs and Sat, 5.30pm, £30-£75. Returns only.

LE HURON: Buxton continues its admirable off-the-beaten-track record with the other Voltaire-based opera of this year's festival: a version of *L'ingénu* by the Belgian composer André Grétry. Geoffrey Dutton takes the title role in this production. Opera House Buxton (see above), Tomorrow and Sat 7.45pm 02-27 50.

THE MAID OF ORLEANS: The Bolshoi Opera makes its first appearance in the UK at Glasgow, with a production of

Tchaikovsky's reworking of Schiller's *Joan of Arc* play with some romance. Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow (041-227 5511), Aug 10-12, Fri, Sat, Sun, 7pm, £10-£20.

NEW YEAR: Exuberant, astonishingly inventive score by the 85-year-old Michael Tippett, updating the themes of individual rebirth and personal growth from *The Midsummer Marriage*. Knefer St Hill lives his way through as Donny; Helen Field is sympathetic as his step-sister Jo Ann. Richard Manager intentionally less so as Regan. Andrew Davis conducts. Glyndebourne (see above), tonight and Tues, 6.10pm, £30-£75.

THE GREEK PASSION: The Edinburgh Festival celebrates Martin's centenary with the prolific Czech composer's works. His last opera, *The Greek Passion*, is given a concert performance by the Prague Symphony Orchestra under Jiri Boháček. Arthur Davies and Phyllis Cullen head the cast. Usher Hall, Edinburgh (031-225 5756), Aug 13, Mon, 8pm, £5-£16.

THE BETROTHAL IN A MONASTERY (THE DUEÑNA): The Bolshoi comes to Edinburgh with a production of Prokofiev's opera based on Sheridan. It is sung in Russian with surtitles. Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh (031-225 5756), Aug 14-16, Tue, Wed and Thurs 7pm, £5-£33.

BARRY MILLINGTON

MIXED MEDIA

NAT GOODEN: The tiny artist's studio that became Matt's Gallery has gained a reputation for inspiring installation art. This sculpture piece reflects his travel memories of architects and structures and reactions to the gallery space itself. Matt's Gallery, 10 Marlborough Street, London W1 (071-249 3759), today until 24 August, Wed-Sun, 12-6pm, Free.

PETER ZIEGLER: Dutch humorist whose work is full of mad sounds, crazy use of everyday objects and weird perspectives. Situated in a new group piece co-commissioned by the ICA and European venues. ICA, Nash House, The Mall, London, SW1 (071-930 3647), tonight-Sat, 8pm, £5 (£2), and £1 day pass.

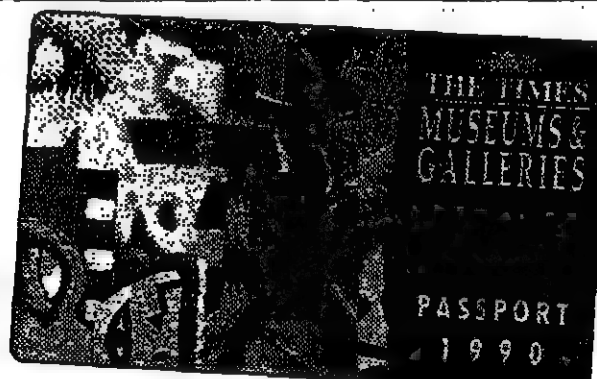
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: Acrobats, jugglers, clowns, trapeze and highwire performers from Montreal visit Europe for the first time, with a choreographed theatre-based show and live band. Big Top, Jubilee Gardens, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight until August 19, Mon-Sat, 8pm, 8pm, Sun, mat Sat and Sun, 3pm, £20-£220.

ISLINGTON FESTIVAL OF CIRCUS: Tony Anthony and Ruke, Howard Howitt and Broadbent, Satellite and Circus Burlesque are some of the many exciting acts in this festival which buzzes with children's shows in the afternoon and plenty of cabaret in the evening. Information from The Circus Space, United House, North Road, London, N7 (071-700 0958), today until Fri, 4pm, Sat and Sun, 2pm, £1-£5.

MARCEL MARCEAU & COMPANY: A four-week season of changing programmes from the living legend of the mime world. Premières include "The Four Temperaments" exploring the many faces of man and "Jekyll and Hyde" both characters being performed by Marceau as Bo. Includes three recent graduates from Marceau's Paris-based mime school for the first time in London. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), starts tonight, Thurs and Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat and Thurs, 2.30pm (from August 11), £4-£14.

THE MAPAPA ACROBATS: First UK visit of this Kanyan troupe, mixing tumbling and acrobatics with colourful costume traditional dancing. With five East African Benge-best music from the group Mendingo. This show promises to be a fast moving spectacle. The company will also be giving workshops. Westmanna Arts Centre, 40 High Street Brentford, Mids (081 847 5551), Mon-Wed, 8.30pm, £5.95 (£2.95).

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Devicollis

Report warns BR subsidy cannot be cut at all

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE government will have to abandon plans to eliminate subsidy from British Rail's commuter sector if the deterioration in rail services is to be reversed, Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, was warned yesterday.

In a forthright report published by the Central Transport Consultative Committee, the government-appointed rail watchdog, Mr Parkinson was told that BR subsidy levels were now at the "irreducible minimum".

The fall in passenger receipts combined with the losses from last year's rail

strikes have put a squeeze on BR's finances, and any further reductions in public subsidy levels would have serious consequences on the quality of services, Major-General Lennox Napier, the Committee chairman, said.

The warning will come as a severe embarrassment to Mr Parkinson who had earlier set Network SouthEast the goal of eliminating all public subsidy by 1992. The network has seen its subsidy levels fall from £136 million in 1986 to £143 million last year.

Reviewing BR's overall performance over the past 12 months, the report said the quality of service left "a great deal to be desired", although BR managers and staff had to be commended for making improvements "often without all the tools to do the job".

Nationally, passengers have a better railway system than they had a few years ago, although "improvements continue to be slow in coming, and (are) unevenly distributed", the report said. Services in north Kent, Cambridge to Liverpool Street, along the cross-Pennine routes, as well as services in Greater Manchester, Birmingham, and Cardiff, were among the worst in the country.

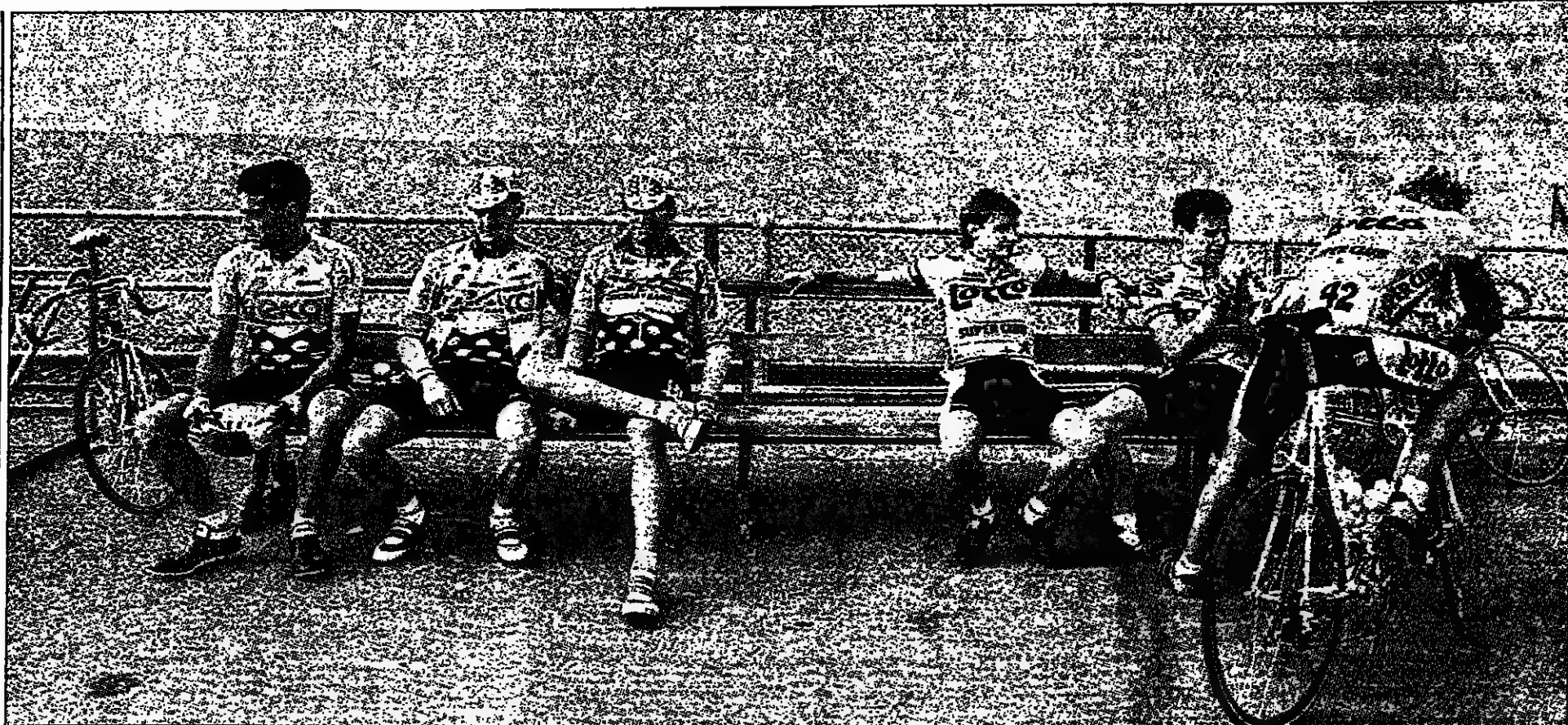
National statistics showed little improvement in overcrowding at peak periods, train reliability, and the number of cancelled services. The lack of any improvement in these areas "makes me doubt if BR will ever be able to run more than an adequate railway when it has to do so entirely from its own resources", Gen. Napier said.

The report said that routes which fail to meet quality targets like reliability, punctuality, seat availability, and cleanliness should have annual fare increases kept low.

"It is no longer acceptable for customers to be without effective redress when BR consistently fails to deliver agreed standards," it said.

However, the report emphasised that BR was in an "invidious position". The drop in revenue has resulted in train service cuts on Network SouthEast and Provincial, and many much needed improvement schemes have been deferred or abandoned. These have undoubtedly been affected by the reduction in the public service obligation, BR's annual grant, it added.

7.48 agency, page 2
Leading article, page 11



Breakfast break: Spanish and Belgian competitors in the Kellogg's Tour of Britain relax at dawn in Brighton before the start of the 680-mile race. Report, page 36

Police to take harder line on domestic violence

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE police should abandon their low-key approach to domestic violence, set up registers of women at risk and, whenever possible, charge alleged offenders, according to Home Office guidelines published yesterday.

Ministers believe the guidelines mirror the public's growing intolerance of domestic violence. Home Office research has recently shown that 44 per cent of female murder victims are killed by husbands or lovers. Only a tiny number of domestic assaults are reported, perhaps as few as two per cent of the total, with charges being pressed in only a fraction of these.

The guidelines, drawn up in consultation with chief constables, urge police to treat assaults in the home as seriously as other forms of violence, to keep more detailed records of incidents and to avoid attempts at reconciling partners where a quarrel has come to blows.

To signal the change, forces are being asked to make clear policy statements. These, the guidelines say, could lead to the creation of special units to monitor cases and to help to liaise with other agencies to provide victims with counselling, legal advice and alternative housing.

Police should also always ensure that victims are medically examined and that they are never interviewed in the presence of the alleged assailant, the guidelines say.

Launching the initiative, John Patten, minister of state

at the Home Office, said that society had for too long been reluctant to acknowledge the extent and seriousness of domestic violence. "Turning a blind eye should cease, as must the idea, seemingly still held by a few, that violence is somehow acceptable as part of a normal domestic relationship," he said.

Mr Patten said he expected and hoped that the guidelines would prompt a big increase in reporting of domestic assaults but said that the public should realise the impact this would have on recorded crime figures.

The new approach was broadly welcomed by women's welfare groups. But they said that there was a danger that victims, the vast majority

of whom are female, would still be vulnerable after making contact with police because space in refuges was so limited.

Nicola Harwin, of the Women's Aid Federation (England), said the organisation could only house 2,300, or 40 per cent, of the 3,672 women who asked for places in London refuges last year.

The point was endorsed by the charity Victim Support. To improve the position the charity has set up a working party comprising representatives from the police, the Home Office, the probation service and voluntary bodies, to improve co-ordination between agencies.

Leading article, page 11

Draft food rules carry jail term

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE government yesterday published draft regulations under which shopkeepers could go to jail for two years if they sell microbologically perishable foods after their "use by" date, or tamper with the date labelling on foods.

The regulations, under the new Food Safety Act, are to come into operation on January 1, 1991. The food industry, retailers and others affected have until October 1 to comment on the proposals.

David Maclean, the food minister, said yesterday that the new regulations would introduce important changes to improve consumer protection.

The regulations will ban the "sell by" date marking system which is still widely in use.

"Best before" dates will be the principal marking system for the great majority of foods, but for microbologically perishable items such as dairy products, prepared salads, cook-chill foods, partially cooked foods, soft cheeses, and fresh meat and fish, "use by" dates will be introduced. Mr Maclean said these would give a clear final date for the consumption of foods which could become dangerous if allowed to deteriorate.

The sale of such foodstuffs after the "use by" date has expired would become an offence, punishable by up to two years' imprisonment or an unlimited fine. It will become a similarly punishable offence to re-date food originally labelled by someone else.

Such regulations would in any case have been required under a European Community labelling directive due to come into force in 1992.

The provisions against tampering with food labels are aimed primarily at small shopkeepers and market stall holders who bought foods from supermarkets at prices which had been cut as their "best before" date expired, and then re-offered them for sale. It is believed that some traders made a lucrative business of doctoring labels and selling foods.

The Consumers' Association yesterday welcomed the draft regulations. A spokesman said: "We have long been urging the Government to end the misleading and confusing 'sell by' date system."

IRA terror 'will never win'

Continued from page 1

large that attracts tourists. Someone must have seen people off the beaten track, walking through the fields or going down the lanes beside the Gower house," he said. "I appeal for them to come forward and tell us about it."

He agreed that his force faced a difficult task in tracking down the terrorists. Detectives are following the theory that the terrorists may have posed as a courting couple. "They must have visited the village at least twice," Det Chief Supt Roger Hills, head of Sussex CID, said.

His officers are still searching the rubble at the scene of the blast and in a field at the back of the house where debris from the explosion landed. The field is also a possible route used by the terrorists to gain access to the car park where Mr Gow's Montego was parked.

The police are carrying out house-to-house searches, including checking the many guest houses, hotels and holiday houses in the Eastbourne area.

Mr Hills said that the Montego was used by the whole family, but he understood that it had been parked in the drive all weekend. The other family car, a Metro, had also been in the drive and was used several times over the weekend. It was collected by a mechanic shortly before the bomb exploded. Mrs Gow had arranged with a garage to leave the keys in the vehicle so that it could be taken for a service.

Conqueror falls to navy cuts

Continued from page 1

Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarine to have been decommissioned. The nuclear reactor will be removed for long-term storage and the boat is likely to be docked at Rosyth, on the Forth, near HMS Dreadnought, until a decision on disposal.

The other main disposals announced yesterday were of HMS Phoenix, a Leander class frigate built in 1966, and two Oberon class diesel-electric submarines, HMS Odin and HMS Onslaught, built in the 1960s. The five other vessels were the two old minehunters HMS Gavinton and HMS

Kirkliston, two patrol craft, HMS Sandpiper and HMS Petrel, and a specialist seabed vessel, HMS Challenger, which is to be offered for sale.

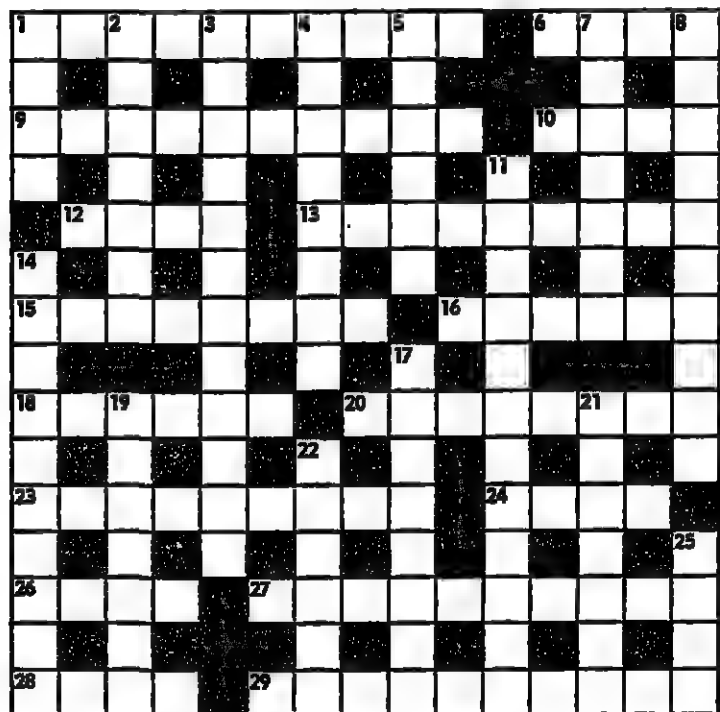
There had been indications for some time that the navy wanted either to privatise the running of HMS Challenger or sell it. Challenger cost £150 million to build and £8 million during development trials, but has only once been used operationally - since it came into service in 1984.

The usual ship retirement rate is four to six vessels a year. This has been accelerated and the rate will continue to increase to bring

down the navy's frigate-destructor strength from 48 to 40 under the government's "options for change" review.

Trawling through thousands of items in an attempt to meet the £500 million target, the ministry has cut the navy's planned expenditure this year by £170 million, the army's by £160 million and the RAF's by £200 million. The remaining cuts will affect research and development. The early retirement of the nine ships will save about £60 million. Although several of the ships were due for refits, no contracts had been formally placed, officials said.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,361



- ACROSS**
- 1 Funny work turned up by artist, including one Constable (5,5).
 - 2 The yarn of a boxer, perhaps (4).
 - 3 Graves one might check for body (4-6).
 - 4 Prevent flow in part of pipe (4).
 - 5 Black line showing edge of hill (4).
 - 6 Narrow escape from court summons (5,4).
 - 7 Dog tracks - mine (8).
 - 8 Leave instruction for timekeeping (4,2).
 - 9 New production brings me back in Stravinsky title role (6).
 - 10 Service provided by policeman - not a special (8).
 - 11 Trooper's term for deterioration in weapon (9).
 - 12 Sudden blow disheartened visitor (4).
- DOWN**
- 1 Neat novice might appear in this (4).
 - 2 Remain out on lake? Serpentine perhaps (7).
 - 3 Excellent type for older radio parts (4,8).
 - 4 Communication between office and club, possibly (8).
 - 5 Animal in the drink coming up all right (6).
 - 6 Unwelcome person not included in project (7).
 - 7 My fertile ancestors, initially, contributing to this (6,4).
 - 8 Equality possible after scoring below the line (5,7).
 - 9 Test players' performance, perhaps, on this record (5-5).
 - 10 Letters from a docile royal daughter (8).
 - 11 Supporting actress (3,4).
 - 12 What an unusual thing is true understanding! (7).
 - 13 Lots of planes, perhaps, RAF pilot found on base (6).
 - 14 Support not needed by the jet set (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,360

ACROSS
1. FUNNY WORK
2. YARN
3. GRAVES
4. PREVENT
5. BLACK LINE
6. NARROW
7. DOG TRACKS
8. LEAVE
9. NEW PRODUCTION
10. SERVICE
11. TROOPER
12. SUDEN
DOWN
1. NEAT
2. REMAIN
3. EXCELLENT
4. COMMUNICATION
5. ANIMAL
6. UNWELCOME
7. MY FERTILE
8. EQUALITY
9. TEST
10. LETTERS
11. SUPPORTING
12. WHAT
13. LOTS
14. SUPPORT

Concise Crossword, page 13

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 39 per cent of the competitors at the 1990 London A regional final of The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship.

WEATHER

Northwestern Scotland will be rather cloudy with a few showers, with the rest of Scotland and Northern Ireland dry with plenty of hazy sunshine. Much of England and Wales will have another dry and very hot day. Any cloud will be patchy with almost unbroken sunshine in most parts. Coastal areas will generally be cooler than inland. Outlook: generally dry with good sunny spells.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: 1=thunder; 2=dry; 3=light; 4=sunny; 5=clear; 6=rain; 7=cloud; 8=rain; 9=rain; 10=rain; 11=rain; 12=rain

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	22	SE	25	24	SE	25
Alexandria	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Athens	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Bombay	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Buenos Aires	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Cairo	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Calcutta	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Colon	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Hong Kong	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
London	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Madras	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Manila	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Mexico City	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Moscow	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Paris	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Rangoon	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
San Francisco	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Singapore	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Tokyo	28	SE	28	28	SE	28
Yokohama	28	SE	28	28	SE	28

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- TAMARI**
a. A Bazar gossip
b. A river boat awning
c. Soy sauce
- KOB**
a. A reed thatch
b. A water antelope
c. The King's Own Borderers
- RAPPEE**
a. A South African unit of money
b. A guerrilla
c. The wild vetich
- LUNT**
a. A slow match
b. To overact
c. A Highland coracle

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	Code
C. London (within N & S Gtcs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
West Country	737
Wales	738
Midlands	739
East Anglia	740
North-west England	741
North-east England	742
Scotland	743
Northern Ireland	744
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).	

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 27C (81F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 18C (64F). Humidity: 85%. Rain: 0.1 in. Wind: SE to E, 10 to 15 mph. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 6.7 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 in. 1024.5 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.92 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Margate, Kent, 28C (82F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, 15C (59F). Highest night temp: Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, 10.5C (51F); lowest night temp: Jersey, 17.5C (63F).

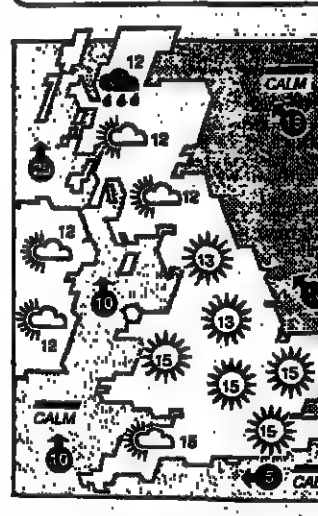
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 25C (77F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11C (52F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 13.1 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 21C (70F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.4 hr.

AM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 8.49 pm to 5.25 am
Bristol 8.59 pm to 5.35 am
Edinburgh 9.21 pm to 5.18 am
Manchester 9.06 pm to 5.55 am
Penzance 9.06 pm to 5.52 am

TOWER BRIDGE

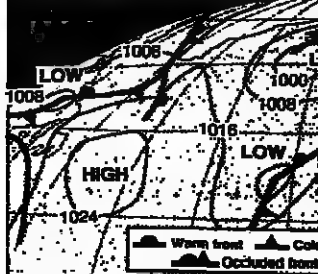
Tower Bridge will be closed to traffic today: 11.15 am and 11.45 am.

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10.05	5.8	10.38	5.5
Aberdeen	10.05	5.8	10.38	5.5
Avonmouth	2.51	9.8	3.39	9.6
Belfast	7.38	2.9	1.4	2.9
Bristol	2.38	9.2	3.4	9.0
Cardiff	1.06	4.4	1.22	4.2
Dover	7.38	5.0	8.16	5.0
Falmouth	12.36	4.2	1.22	4.2
Glasgow	8.28	3.7	9.45	3.7
Hull	7.30	3.1	8.26	3.0
Holyhead	7.00	4.1	7.43	4.3
Leamington	2.21	6.8	3.08	6.6
Liverpool	1.48	6.5	2.41	6.5
London	2.33	4.5	3.15	4.5
Lyons	11.15	2.2	11.00	2.0

Tide in metres: 1m = 3.2808 ft. Times are BST.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 1 1990

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-25
● DEGREE RESULTS 26
● SPORT 34-38

Treasury boosted by water investors

GOVERNMENT finances are to receive a £1.5 billion boost from second instalments on privatised water shares bought by 1.3 million investors. With Lloyds and NatWest share registrars still counting an estimated 90-95 per cent of shareholders in the ten water service groups paid the 70 per cent second instalment by yesterday's deadline.

Walt Disney plans park

Walt Disney Company has submitted a preliminary plan for a 350-acre, ocean-oriented theme park, called Port Disney, it wants to build at Long Beach, California. The proposal is part of Disney's plan to build a second theme park in southern California, either adjacent to its park in Anaheim or in Long Beach.

Fimbra order

Fimbra, the regulatory association, has issued an urgent suspension order against a financial adviser in Derby. Alan B. Cleveley was ordered to cease trading on Friday for an initial period of three days. Fimbra has until 6pm today to decide whether to extend the suspension.

YRM ahead

YRM, the building design consultancy, is paying a final dividend of 3.35p, making 5p (3.8p), after pre-tax profits of £3.09 million (£2.66 million) in the year ended April. YRM gave warning of difficult conditions in Britain, which are not expected to improve until about 1992.

ASH rises

Automated Security (Holdings), the electronic security company, announced a 34 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £13.5 million (£8.7 million) in the six months to end-May. The interim dividend rose 20 per cent to 1.8p (1.5p).

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8590 (+0.0150)
W German mark 2.9502 (-0.0173)
Exchange index 94.1 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1844.5 (+6.4)
FT-SE 100 2326.2 (+8.7)
New York Dow Jones 2923.76 (+6.43)
Tokyo Nikkei Average 31035.66 (+592.71)
Closing Prices ... Page 25
Major indices and major changes Page 22

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 10%
3-month interbank 15.147%
3-month eligible bills 14.9-14.12%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.497-48%
30-year bonds 103.1-103.12%

CURRENCIES

London New York
£ \$1.8590
£ DM 2.9502
£ Sfr 2.5441
£ FF 6.3207
£ Yen 271.59
£ Index 94.1
ECU ED 629339
£ ECU 25921

GOLD

London Fixing:
AU \$371.10 pm \$372.30
close \$371.75-372.25 (\$199.75-200.25)
New York:
Corney \$372.00-372.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) ... \$19.3500 (\$19.10)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.45	1.45
Austria Sch	13.75	13.75
Belgium F	13.75	13.75
Canada C	1.25	1.25
Denmark Kr	11.75	11.75
Finland Mk	10.75	10.75
France F	16.65	16.65
Germany DM	1.75	1.75
Greece Dr	20.75	20.75
Hong Kong \$	1.25	1.25
Ireland P	2.25	2.25
Italy Lira	20.75	20.75
Japan Yen	166.50	166.50
Netherlands Gld	3.60	3.60
Norway Kr	13.75	13.75
Portugal Esc	20.75	20.75
South Africa Rd	5.00	5.00
Spain Pta	16.65	16.65
Sweden S	13.75	13.75
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.25
Turkey Lira	16.65	16.65
US Dollar	1.45	1.45
Yugoslavia Dnr	13.75	13.75

NatWest profit curbed by bad debt provisions

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has become the latest victim of high interest rates. The bank, Britain's second-largest, reported pre-tax profits of £431 million for the first half of the year, at least £50 million below City forecasts, and gave warning of continuing difficulties.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman, admitted that the profits were considerably lower than the bank wished. "In the current economic conditions in the United Kingdom and the United States, we have needed to make substantial provisions and income growth has slowed," he said.

"We are not immune from the problems confronting some of our personal and corporate customers." The bank is still raising its dividend by 15 per cent to 6.125p, exceeding expectations.

"This reflects our belief that we are in a position to enhance our profitability in the years ahead," Lord Alexander said. On the stock market, however, NatWest's depressed share price fell another 10p to 315p in reaction to Lord Alexander's warning that conditions would remain difficult for the rest of the year and that the bank "might have to make further significant additions to these provisions".

The bank was hit by a 139 per cent rise in bad debt provisions to £434 million, as a result of company failures and bankruptcies, doubled among its customers.

Pre-tax profits were 22 per cent above the first half of 1989, when NatWest suffered a £395 million write-off against Third World debts. Discounting this one-off cost, however, profits fell 37 per cent.

The bank's operations were also hit by a 13 per cent rise in



Lord Alexander: warning of new provisions

Charlotte keeps to sales plan

By MATTHEW BOND

MOUNT Charlotte Investments is to press ahead with the £200 million hotel disposal programme it began after buying the Thistle chain for £645 million last year. However, Robert Peel, the chairman, is setting no deadline for the remaining disposals.

So far the company has raised £85 million, including the sale of the Gosforth Park Hotel in Newcastle, and the Lowndes and Cadogan Hotels in London. Further sales are likely to prove more difficult because rival groups, have put hotels on the market.

"It is unprecedented what has happened this year. But we will continue our disposal programme. We are confident we can do it and we are confident we can show a marginal improvement in earnings per share," said Mr Peel.

He was speaking after Mount Charlotte announced interim pre-tax profits for the 28 weeks to July 15 of £25.9 million, an increase of 16.1 per cent. The interim dividend has been increased to 0.53p (0.46p).

Tempos, page 23

Brittan to review state subsidies

FROM PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, EC commissioner for competition policy, has promised a thorough review of the way EC member governments subsidise industry. This follows a fresh report that claims European companies are still grossly oversubsidised even though state aid as a percentage of EC gross domestic product fell 18 per cent between 1986 and 1988.

Brittan stands to gain from Sir Leon's onslaught as it could force spendthrift governments into line with Britain's lower aid levels. This would reduce any competitive disadvantage British companies suffer against their more highly state-funded European rivals.

The report reveals how state assistance to manufacturing in Britain and Denmark is about half the community average of 2.2 per cent of GDP. Britain, Ireland and to a lesser extent France have also cut their funding more sharply than the rest of the community during the 1986-1988 period.

Sir Leon warned member governments that aid levels were "so high that their negative impact on the competition of the internal market is very real".

The main thrust of his campaign will be to see that in their determination to champion their own domestic industries, member governments do not widen the wealth gap between central and peripheral regions.

Brussels also wants to encourage EC states to tighten their belts and to be more honest about the way they support industry in order to set an example to trading partners elsewhere.

The EC is under growing pressure from America to cut subsidies to farmers and to certain key manufacturers, such as the Airbus Industrie consortium.

The EC's stance on state aid for research and development is likely to be more lenient, however. "We want to boost R & D but without allowing too many subsidies as products approach the market-place," a competition official said. He suggested that the EC might also encourage greater spending on environmental controls.

Threat to EC role, page 23

Former minister resigns from Manpower

'Turkey' taunt returns to haunt Tebbit

By COLIN CAMPBELL

PERHAPS Norman Tebbit's days as a director of Manpower were numbered from the moment, at Christmas 1988, when he described Mitchell Fromstein, now the group's chairman, as "a turkey".

Mr Fromstein insists there was no ill feeling. He said yesterday in Milwaukee that he had always regarded the quip as a Christmas party joke. Nevertheless, Mr Tebbit has finally resigned.

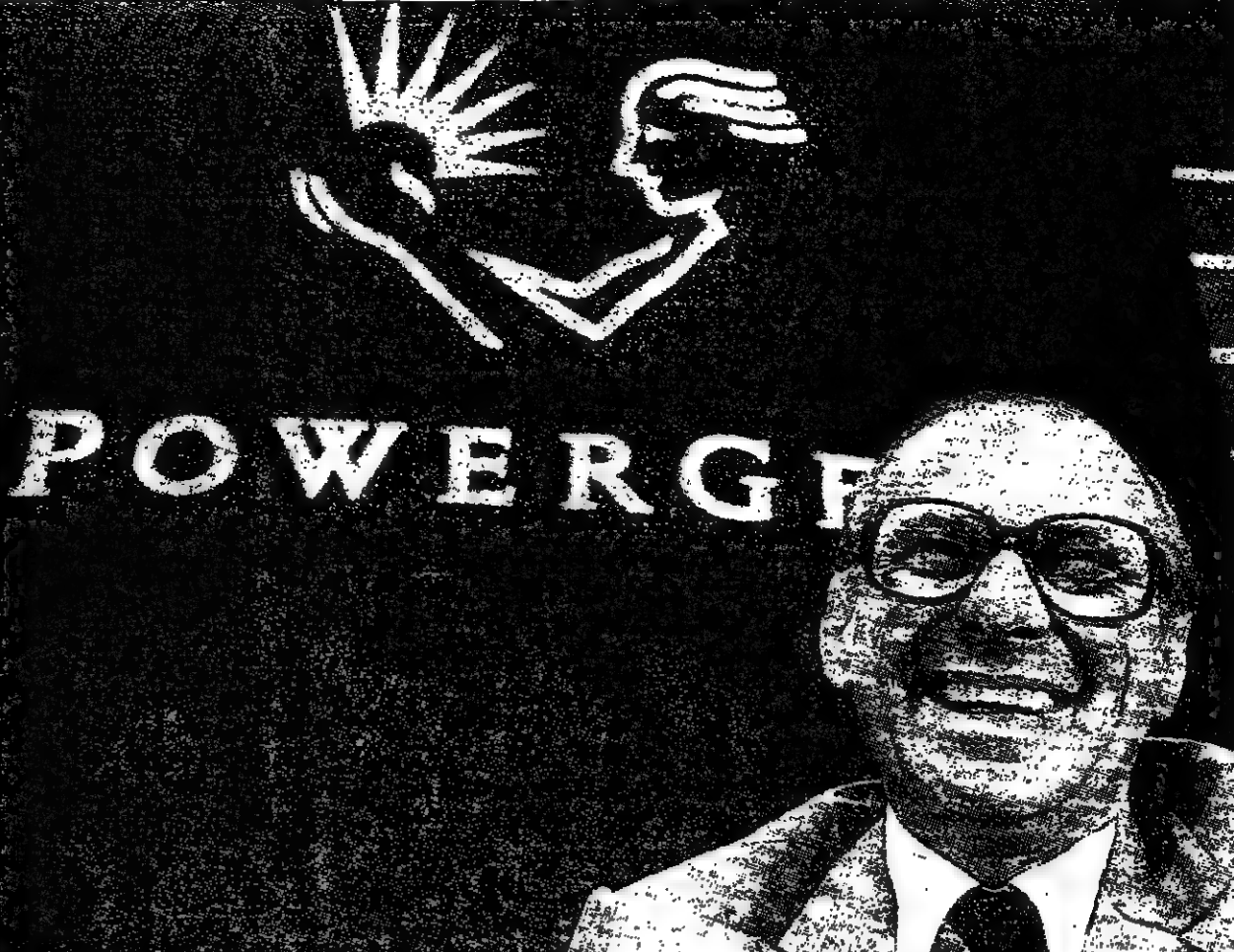
Mr Tebbit, who is also a director of BET, had long been expected to depart from Manpower's board because of a possible conflict of interest. That potential conflict has arrived, although from which quarter remains a mystery.

Mr Tebbit was travelling by road yesterday. "No, his car does not have a telephone," his secretary said. "No, I do not think Mr Tebbit would like to be asked if he drives a Jaguar, let alone if it belongs to Manpower. That is an intrusive question." Mr Tebbit joined Manpower's board (previously Blue Arrow) in September 1987. In November that year, he also joined BET. The former Conservative party chairman and ex-cabinet minister was, as is the wont of former ministers, busy collecting City posts.

Mr Tebbit's dual directorships gave no cause for concern until late 1989, when BET made a bid for Hestair, an operator of similar employment agency interests to Manpower. In January, BET finally bought Hestair.

Manpower's statement yesterday said Mr Tebbit had resigned "because of a potential conflict with his board position in another company with parallel interests". Via his secretary, Mr Tebbit said: "Mr Fromstein and I had agreed that in the short run there was no conflict which could not easily be contained. "In the long run, it was inevitable that a conflict would arise. We had agreed

Malpas parries sale questions



No comment: Robert Malpas, PowerGen chairman, refused yesterday to speculate about a possible trade sale

Redland in venture with Lafarge

By DEREK HARRIS INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LAFARGE Coppée, of France, one of the world's top two cement makers, is putting its plasterboard interests into a joint venture with Redland, the British tiles, bricks and building materials group, to create Europe's second largest plasterboard manufacturer after Britain's BPE Industries.

Lafarge will have 80 per cent of the venture, as yet unnamed, except that in the United Kingdom it will continue, under its current management, trading as Redland Plasterboard. The Redland group takes the other 20 per cent, with an option to raise this to 33.4 per cent.

The new venture is expected to have production of about 150 million square metres of board a year, with an annual turnover of £200 million.

Redland Plasterboard is a joint venture, with operations in Britain and on the Continent, in which the Redland group has a 51 per cent stake, the rest being held by Australia's CSR building materials group. Redland's share of losses from Redland Packaging last year was £3 million.

CSR is to sell its share to the new joint venture for £55 million at the end of next month when the joint venture deal is due to be completed, with Lafarge injecting £39 million into the joint company and Redland £16 million.

The new grouping plans to expand production in Britain, where Redland already manufactures at Bristol. A second plasterboard plant is to be set up at Bristol. Germany is also a target for increased sales and new investment.

Lafarge plasterboard interests going into the venture include four plants in France. Redland activities being injected include interests in France, the Netherlands and Scandinavia.

Bernard Kasriel, Lafarge managing director, expects European plasterboard demand to rise by between 5 and 7 per cent in the next two to three years, and also expects fierce competition to continue, restraining prices.

He said: "Having a complete product range and Europe-wide distribution is a key advantage for us."

PowerGen's £79.9m loss matches City forecasts

By MARTIN WALLER

POWERGEN, the electricity generator where Hanson is considering a bid, lost £79.9 million in the year to end-March after all exceptional and extraordinary provisions.

The figure was in line with City estimates. Robert Malpas, the chairman, refused to comment on a possible trade sale as "not appropriate", saying merely: "We are providing the government with assistance for the possibility of a trade sale."

But he promised: "Any possible acquirer of PowerGen is not getting this cheaply." John Rennocks, finance director, in a clear reference to suggestions that Hanson might strip the company, said: "There are no unutilised capital allowances or tax losses inherited."

PowerGen is tucking away a raft of extraordinary and exceptional provisions in part to cover restructuring costs over the next three years, although it is giving few details on how the money will be spent. Operating profits were £390.7 million, not far short of the £436 million reported by the much larger

National Power last week. Exceptional items totalled £170.1 million, including the cost of plant overhauls and the correction of serious plant defects, and pre-tax profits were £233.6 million. Extraordinary, below-the-line items of £185.8 million included £62.1 million costs in 1989-90 from the establishment of PowerGen as a separate company and the flotation and another £102.1 million for rationalisation and restructuring.

Of this last, £77.2 million will be spent over the next three years, largely on reducing staff. There are at present no specific plans to close stations beyond two closures announced last week, although analysts expect more.

The value of tangible assets in the balance sheet rose by £67 million to £1.36 billion, in part because the accounting life of two stations was increased.

Discussions on the level of debt PowerGen will have to bear were continuing. The Labour party is calling for enquiries into the use of government money and tax concessions to facilitate privatisation of nationalised industries, (Robin Oakley, Political Editor, writes).

Gordon Brown, Labour's chief spokesman on trade and industry, has written to John Bourn, comptroller and auditor general of the National Audit Office, and to Robert Sheldon, chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, saying: "Nearly one billion pounds of public cash has been spent in City and other fees. It is important to know what secret deals and behind-the-scenes agreements have been made by government ministers. If the prime minister will not institute an independent inquiry, it is vital that the NAO and PAC open up investigations."

In his letters, Mr Brown says that the need for action is demonstrated by the Hanson involvement in the future of PowerGen. Lord Young's promises while trade secretary of "sympathetic" treatment for British Aerospace and the admission by the Inland Revenue that tax discussions have been taking place with privatised companies.

Comment, page 23

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Wellcome	571 (+10)
Reed Int	428 (+9)
Eurogroup Publ	352 (+9)
British Aerospace	551 (+9)
Telecom	8150 (+10)
Eurotunnel Units	530 (+10)
FALLS:	
Polly Peck	434 (+12)
Park Foods	225 (+10)
Telecom	8150 (+10)
J Wilkes	108 (+9)
Telfos	195 (+9)
Sothby	512 (+7)
Countryside	137 (+8)
Bank of Ireland	207 (+9)
BAT	581 (+9)
Independent	282 (+9)
Blenheim Exhib	755 (+15)
Closure prices	

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1	Chemring	Industrials A-D	1.00
2	Entertainment (aa)	Media	1.00
3	Preston (aa)	Industrials S-Z	1.00
4	Tomlinson	Industrials S-Z	1.00
5	Land Sec (aa)	Property	1.00
6	Laporte (aa)	Chemicals/Plas	1.00
7	MEPC (aa)	Property	1.00
8	Br Aerospace (aa)	Motors/Aircraft	1.00
9	Clyde Pet	Oil/Gas	1.00
10	Siebel (aa)	Industrials S-Z	1.00
11	Computer People	Electronics	1.00
12	Portman Food	Food	1.00
13	Dela	Electronics	1.00
14	Tate & Lyle	Food	1.00
15	Kingfisher (aa)	Draperies/Textiles	1.00
16	Drummond (aa)	Draperies/Textiles	1.00
17	Radiant Metal	Industrials L-R	1.00
18	Chenier Cons	Industrials A-D	1.00
19	Evered	Building/Roads	1.00
20	EBDO	Industrials S-Z	1.00
21	Sainsbury	Industrials S-Z	1.00
22	Klein-EZ	Industrials E-K	1.00
23	Transit Perian	Building/Roads	1.00
24	Mount Charlotte	Hotels/Caterers	1.00
25	Local Pet	Oil/Gas	1.00
26	RHM (aa)	Food	1.00
27	Savoy Hotels A	Hotels/Caterers	1.00
28	BTR (aa)	Industrials A-D	1.00
29	BOC (aa)	Industrials A-D	1.00
30	Burdays (aa)	Banks/Discount	1.00
31	AB Food (aa)	Food	1.00
32	Yale & Vator	Industrials S-Z	1.00
33	Amchem	Chemicals/Plas	1.00
34	Tibben & Britten	Transport	1.00
35	P.A.O. (aa)	Transport	1.00
36	Barrow Rand	Industrials A-D	1.00
37	Williams Hides (aa)	Industrials S-Z	1.00
38	Nat Asset Bk	Banks/Discount	1.00
39	Sterling Ind	Industrials S-Z	1.00
40	Warburg SG	Banks/Discount	1.00
41	Hardy O & G	Oil/Gas	1.00
42	Beiler Bros	Food	1.00
43	Russell (A)	Industrials L-R	1.00
44	Unilever (aa)	Industrials S-Z	1.00

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

The winner of the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday was Mr Ronald Hertzman of West London.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990	Low	High	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
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A first-class benefits package is available which includes Mortgage Subsidy, Non-contributory Pension Scheme, free Life Insurance and Profit Share.

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Alan Suckling, Manager - Personnel

Trade Indemnity plc,

Trade Indemnity House,

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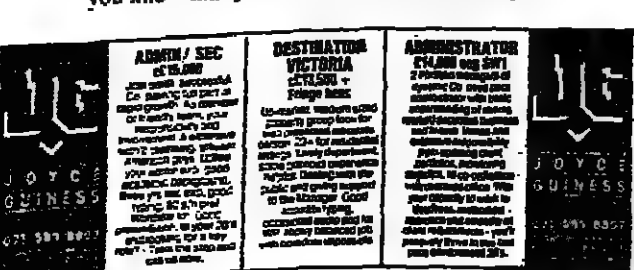
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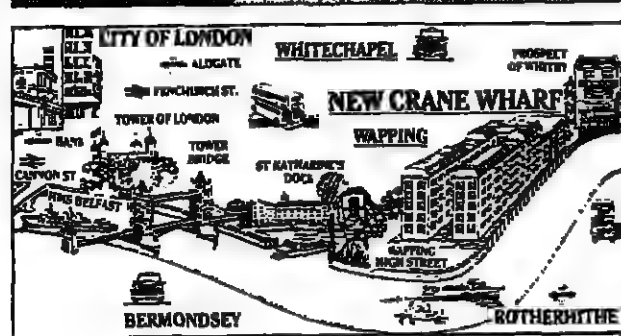
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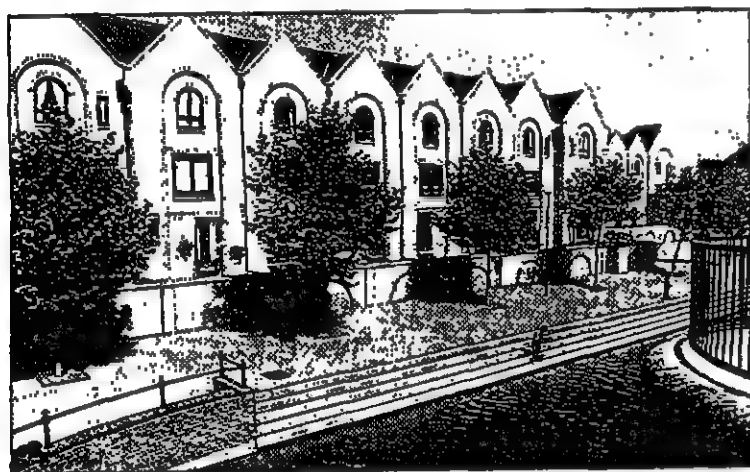
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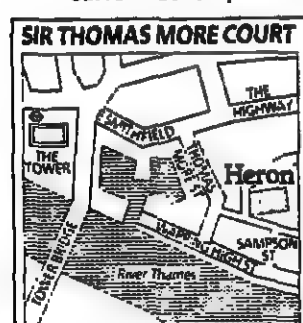
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Casting for liquid assets in the Lakes

We met on the stairs, rival bidders for the same property on the edge of the Lake District National Park. "Sounds suspect," he said, as the stair creaked loudly. "You can see light through the roof slates," I volunteered. "Odd smell, isn't there?" he replied, wrinkling his nose. "All this Cumbrian damp I suppose."

I had seen him earlier cruising slowly along the back road in his Jaguar, giving the place the once-over. We comprehensively put one another off the property. The estate agent had insisted that only bidders with cash should enquire; time-wasters with houses still to sell need not bother, a sure sign of a bullish property market running against southern trends. The starting price for the old Cumbrian farmhouse with peeling paint, poorly pointed walls, visibly rising damp and a crumbling barn set in half an acre of wilderness, was already £10,000 over the starting price of £75,000. Eventually it went for more than £90,000. As less than £60,000 would have to be spent on it, more if the roof was replaced.

My rival was a stockbroker from Oxfordshire, who had driven north with the notion of starting life afresh in a Cumbrian country home, his financial problems eased by the difference between the value on his desirable detached pad in the Cotswolds and the cost of a similar property in the Lake District. What he found did

That Lakeland dream home can be yours for the asking, says Ronald Faux, if you are prepared to pay with ready cash

not entirely shatter his dream but certainly brought it closer to a cold reality. The days are largely gone when a home owner could sell up in London or the home counties, move to Cumbria into a similar standard of home and slip £150,000 on deposit into the building society. Kyle Blue, head of valuation at Penrith Farmers' and Kidd's in Penrith in the northern Lake district, says property has shown much more stability than in the south and has not been subject to such wild fluctuations. Even so, buyers from the south have had a strong impact on prices over the past two years, during which values have generally risen by 50 or 60 per cent, with lakeside character property increasing even more. Many were bought as second homes or homes in advance of retirement and high interest rates have probably reduced prices by about 5 per cent. The community charge was another disincentive for the second home market.

Rates on a holiday cottage in a deeply rural area never amounted to a huge sum whereas a poll tax bill of £500 or £400 was causing buyers to think harder. As the market in the south slowed down under the weight of interest rates, the effect on the north has been to make sales uncertain in a market with strong demand.

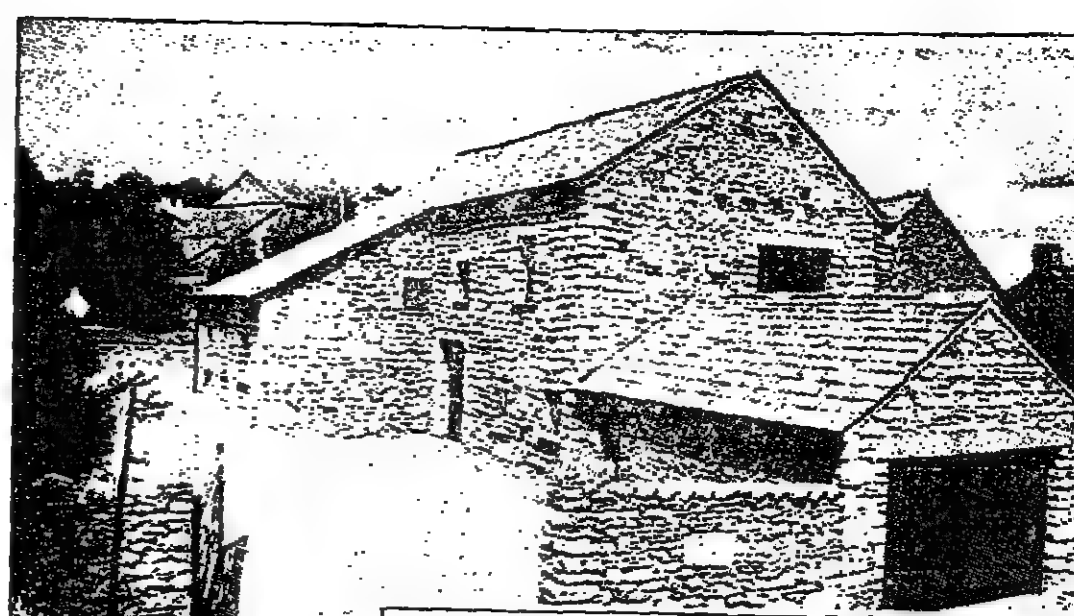
Three or four times in the past month buyers have backed out because they were unable to sell their existing property. It is made clear to buyers that the property they are after will remain on the market until the funds are produced," Mr Blue says.

The uncertainty about the market in the south and the high level of interest rates have meant few are bold enough to take out bridging loans, and banks are shy of granting them. The result has been a threefold increase in the amount of property available, although that has not helped first-time buyers. The cost of borrowing and the fact that property is maintaining its value leaves them in difficulties in a region where wages are substantially below the southern average.

Mr Blue says buyers have become more realistic in their expectations and no longer expect to reap the massive increases in values of a year ago before interest rates rose and when there was a huge pool of southern money swilling around the northern market.

Outside the Lake District National Park boundary, terrace cot-

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY



Above: converted barn with four-five bedrooms and small garden in the Lyth Valley, £195,000. Right: two-bed semi near Bowness-on-Windermere, £105,000

ages are available for about £40,000, an average semi-detached home for £55,000 to £55,500 and a detached property for £75,000 to £90,000. But the boundary, running roughly down the M6 motorway, has a powerful influence on property prices. A home in one of the classically beautiful Cumbrian villages of Helton, Bampton, Butterwick or Askham in the Lower valley and within the park may be 30 to 40 per cent higher than the same property outside the boundary.

Demand remains high and is strengthened by the controls on further development imposed by the Lake District Special Planning Board. There are indications that properties within the park are being bought as pure investments,

an asset as profitable and easy to dispose of as a blue chip share. The humblest and most derelict dwelling within the park boundary can be guaranteed to attract keen interest, although buyers should beware that local authority improvement grants may no longer be so easily available. The

authority has awoken to the fact that this is no longer a market that needs to be encouraged. It applies a means test on the ability of the buyer to pay for his or her own improvements. The demand for cheaper character property in the countryside has put a premium on redundant

barns and farm buildings. In the Eden valley, the planning authority insists that such buildings may be converted for domestic use only if they form part of a community, a restriction which property specialists believe is reducing the potential for improving many unsightly buildings that have fallen out of use through modern farming methods.

A barn with open-ended planning permission may now realise anything from £35,000 to £50,000, he adds. "I think there is a case for the planning authority to be rather more flexible."

In south Lakeland, where the motorways have cut the journey time between city and country to little more than an hour, the demand for second homes, retirement homes and property for improvement remains strong. Mrs Joanna Dorset, the manager of the Windermere office of estate agents Hackney and Leigh, says the selling chain was frustrating many potential buyers and interest rates had reduced prices by 5 to 10 per cent. Even so, character property realised a minimum of £100,000.

The company had on offer a modern four-bedroom house with a 44ft frontage on Lake Windermere at £475,000. Two other properties with access to the lake across a field were £250,000. Barns in the area now ranked as very desirable properties. A four-bedroom conversion in the Lyth valley was on sale at £195,000.

"It is virtually impossible to find derelict buildings or barns for conversion," Mrs Dorset says. "A barn with planning permission in a village near Kendal on the edge of the national park went for £100,000. I think that anyone looking for a bargain in this bit of the market will be disappointed."

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THE TIMES
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An undefeated century helps lift the Midland side to third place in the county championship table

Moody a talisman

Warwickshire can ill afford to ignore

By JACK BAILEY

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire (21pts) beat Hampshire (3) by six wickets

WARWICKSHIRE'S advance yesterday from fifth to third place in the British Assurance county championship will surely convince them of one thing: the tall, lean Australian by the name of Tom Moody is a talisman they can ill-afford to be without.

Rarely called upon for championship matches in the early part of the season, he has been an immense force in their bid for the title and if previous championship innings of 168, 30, 96, 40, 103 not out and 48 had not convinced them, surely his undefeated century, scored from only 99 balls, which brought Warwickshire with three balls to spare leaves no shadow of room for doubt.

Having been set to score 271 in what, thanks to Hampshire's immaculate over-rate, turned out to be 63 overs, Warwickshire stumbled, steadied and finally walked home triumphant, thanks to a partnership of 131 in 23 overs between Moody and Lloyd, whose belligerent half century and general "game management" made a considerable contribution to the cause of his team.

Prior to the entrance of Lloyd and Moody, Warwick-

Britannic Assurance

championship table

Lancashire (4)	15	1	0	0	16	167
Warwickshire (8)	15	1	0	0	16	167
Hampshire (6)	14	2	0	0	16	167
Derbyshire (7)	14	2	0	0	16	167
Leics (13)	14	2	0	0	16	167
Essex (2)	14	4	4	4	16	167
Gloucestershire (11)	14	4	4	4	16	167
Northampton (17)	14	4	4	4	16	167
Surrey (12)	14	4	4	4	16	167
Northants (5)	14	4	4	4	16	167
Yorkshire (16)	15	1	0	0	16	167
Worcestershire (11)	15	1	0	0	16	167
Somerset (14)	16	2	2	2	16	167
Kent (15)	14	2	2	2	16	167

SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 1 1990

● RACING 34-35
● CRICKET 36
● GOLF 37

Gooch harries India until the end

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (final day of five): England beat India by 247 runs

GOOCH'S game, as it will forever be known, stayed true to its script to the very end. England's victory was claimed shortly before 3pm by a spectacular run-out. The throw, naturally, came from Gooch and he could not recall doing anything like it since his school days.

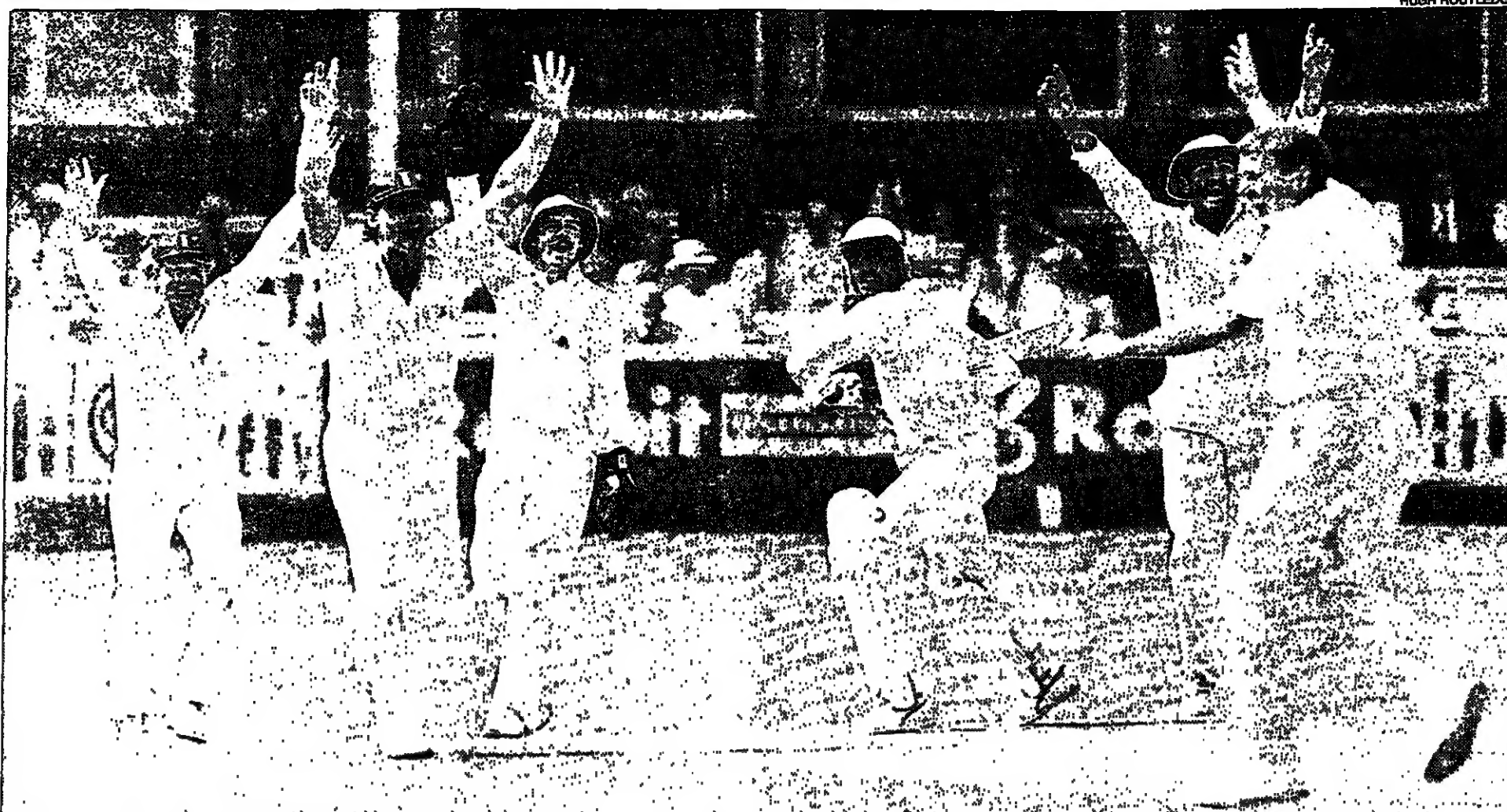
In truth, of course, this entire first Cornhill Test, and Gooch's phenomenal part in it, belongs to the dreams of schoolboys and the pages of the Eagle comic. Put the facts and figures of the past five days before any of the pragmatists who run modern cricket and they will dismiss it as preposterous romanticism.

Even amid what has to be termed the anti-climax of India's second innings decline, records continued to fall. The last of many was clocked up during a frisky tenth wicket stand, as the highest run aggregate in the 85-Test history of Lord's was broken. Among those not present to see it was the editor of Wisden. He has been absent since the weekend, possibly negotiating an overtime payment for revising most of his book.

England's fortunes, meanwhile, look as prosperous as at any time in the past decade and, while neither Gooch nor Micky Stewart, the manager, would commit themselves further than caution allows on the progress they have made together, it will not be lost on either of them that, exactly a year ago today, the Ashes were being handed over to Australia at Old Trafford.

August 1, 1989 was also the day when the mass defections to South Africa, led by Gatting, were confirmed, when Gower decided not to resign as England captain (he was subsequently sacked instead) and when the man who was to replace him felt so miserable about his form that he volunteered to stand down from the England side.

Wary and suspicious man that he is, Gooch may have pondered on that in his contentment last night, half expecting the bad times to ambush him at the next turn. Coca-Cola rather than champagne as he fingered his stubble and reflected in his lovely humdrum way on an



Joy unconfined: Atherton, Smith, Russell, Gooch and Hemmings acclaim the fall of Vengsarkar, caught behind for 35 when in pursuit of his fourth Test century at Lord's

anything but humdrum game.

"It was one of the best, if not the very best I have ever played in," he confirmed. And was his own performance the best of his life? "Just about," he conceded with a slow grin. "It must have been a lucky match for me if I could run someone out as well. I usually have a lot of trouble hitting the stumps."

All Gooch had to do on by far his quietest day of the five was rotate his four bowlers and applaud as they achieved what many had thought beyond them, bowling India out for a second time. To say it was easy does them no justice for England bowled well. Fraser exceptionally so. They also caught everything offered and had, in the superb wicketkeeping of Russell, one of the marvels of even this match.

India, however, seemed confused over their mission, unsure whether they were bating to win or save the game. As a result, they failed comprehensively to do either.

Four men passed 30 but no one reached 40 and they were bowled out for fewer than half Gooch's individual runs in the match.

The English spectators' tradition of vetoing the final day, no matter the position of the game, was at least partially abandoned and a crowd of more than 5,000 saw Manjrekar cut the first ball of the day for four before falling, to Malcolm, in the third over. Azharuddin, the captain, was again in his hectic mood of Saturday. Within an over at the crease, he had scored 15. Was the target so out of reach? He evidently did not think so.

Malcolm was withdrawn, his five overs having cost 38 runs, and Hemmings was summoned to explore the prospects of turn on a wearing pitch. He was pleased by the response and Vengsarkar, trying to withdraw the bat from a ball which spun and bounced, was caught behind. The essential rock of India's middle order had gone, all hope surely accompanying him back to the pavilion.

Before lunch, India had virtually surrendered. Lewis removed Azharuddin whose penchant for working straight balls to the leg-side this time undid him, and then dismissed Prabhakar, the captain, with an inswinging yorker which hit him painfully on the boot. Kapil Dev mis-hit against Hemmings in the last over of the afternoon and, some charming defiance from Tendulkar apart, the rest was largely academic.

County cricket, page 36

FULL TEST SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

India won toss						ENGLAND						INDIA									
						First Innings						First Innings									
						6s	4s	Mins	Runs							6s	4s	Mins	Runs		
*G A Gooch b Prabhakar						333	3	43	633	485	R J Shastri c Gooch b Hemmings						100	6	12	245	185
Bowled between bat and pad											N S Sidhu c Morris b Fraser						30	-	2	76	56
M A Atherton b Kapil Dev						8	-	1	22	20	S V Manjrekar c Russell b Gooch						18	-	1	73	59
Bowled between bat and pad											Top-edged out to wicketkeeper										
D I Gower c Manjrekar b Hirwani						40	-	4	154	109	D B Vengsarkar c Russell b Fraser						52	-	8	137	111
Pushed leg break to silly point											Legside catch by wicketkeeper										
											*M Azharuddin b Hemmings						121	-	22	174	112
											Loose shot across the line										
A J Lamb c Manjrekar b Sharma						139	-	22	276	187	S R Tendulkar b Lewis						10	-	1	30	18
Thick-edged drive to gully											Drove around full-length ball										
R A Smith not out						100	-	14	196	155	M Prabhakar c Lewis b Malcolm						25	-	3	75	49
J E Morris not out						4	-	1	23	21	Mistimed drive to mid-on										
											Kapil Dev not out						77	4	8	75	75
Extras (b 2, lb 21, w 2, nb 4)						29					*K S More c Morris b Fraser						8	-	8	39	30
Total (4 wickets dec, 162 overs)						663					Parried to short leg										
											S K Sharma c Russell b Fraser						0	-	2	2	2
											Fenced outside off-stump										
†R C Russell, C C Lewis, E E Hemmings, A R C Fraser and D E Malcolm did not bat											N D Hirwani bow b Fraser						0	-	8	2	2
											Beaten on the back foot by ball keeping low										
											Extras (b 1, w 4, nb 8)						13				
											Total (114.1 overs)						454				
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-141, 3-449, 4-541.											FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53, 2-102, 3-191, 4-241, 5-286, 6-349, 7-393, 8-430, 9-430.										
BOWLING: Kapil Dev 34-5-120-1 (w 1) (1-0-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Prabhakar 43-6-187-1 (nb 3) (1-0-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Sharma 33-5-122-1 (nb 2, w 1) (1-0-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Manjrekar 30-1-102-1 (1-1-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Azharuddin 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0.						BOWLING: Malcolm 25-1-105-1 (nb 1) (1-0-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Fraser 33-5-122-1 (nb 2, w 1) (1-0-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Lewis 24-3-102-1 (nb 10, w 1) (1-0-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Hemmings 20-4-109-2 (10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0).															
Second Innings						Second Innings						Second Innings									
						6s	4s	Mins	Runs							6s	4s	Mins	Runs		
*G A Gooch c Azharuddin b Sharma						123	4	13	147	113	R J Shastri c Russell b Malcolm						12	-	2	29	18
Mistimed drive to extra cover											Diving leg-side catch										
M A Atherton c Vengsarkar b Sharma						72	-	8	158	114	N S Sidhu c Morris b Fraser						1	-	8	5	5
Head-high catch to slip											Bat-pad to short leg										
D I Gower not out						32	-	4	68	55	S V Manjrekar c Russell b Malcolm						33	-	6	58	47
											Then edge to wicketkeeper										
A J Lamb c Tendulkar b Hirwani						19	-	2	37	27	D B Vengsarkar c Russell b Hemmings						35	-	2	90	72
Brilliant running catch at long-off											S R Tendulkar c Gooch b Fraser						27	-	4	93	85
R A Smith b Prabhakar						15	-	1	20	19	Edged to second slip										
Bowled between bat and pad											M Prabhakar bow b Lewis						8	-	1	13	14
Extras (lb 11)						11					Drove around inswinging yorker										
Total (4 wickets dec, 54.2 overs)						272					Kapil Dev c Lewis b Hemmings						7	-	24	14	14
											Swung to deep mid-wicket										
J E Morris, †R C Russell, C C Lewis, E E Hemmings, A R C Fraser and D E Malcolm did not bat.											*K S More bow b Fraser						16	-	2	63	59
											Beaten on the back foot										
											S K Sharma run out (Gooch)						38	-	7	37	26
											Direct hit from mid-on										
											N D Hirwani not out						0	-	5	2	2
											Extras (b 3, lb 1, nb 6)						10				
											Total (62 overs)						224				
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-204, 2-207, 3-250, 4-272.											FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-23, 3-43, 4-114, 5-127, 6-140, 7-158, 8-161, 9-206.										
BOWLING: Kapil Dev 34-5-120-1 (w 1) (1-0-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Prabhakar 11-2-45-1 (nb 1) (1-0-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Shastri 7-0-38-0; Sharma 15-0-75-2 (nb 1); Hirwani 11-0-50-1.						BOWLING: Fraser 22-7-39-3 (nb 1) (1-0-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Malcolm 10-0-53-0; Prabhakar 11-2-45-1 (nb 1) (1-0-0-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-0-0, 4-0-0-0, 5-0-0-0, 6-0-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 8-0-0-0, 9-0-0-0, 10-0-0-0, 11-0-0-0, 12-0-0-0, 13-0-0-0, 14-0-0-0, 15-0-0-0, 16-0-0-0, 17-0-0-0, 18-0-0-0, 19-0-0-0, 20-0-0-0); Shastri 7-0-38-0; Sharma 15-0-75-2 (nb 1); Hirwani 11-0-50-1.															
Man of the match: G A Gooch.						Man of the match: G A Gooch.						Man of the match: G A Gooch.									
Umpires: H D Bird and N J Prews.						Umpires: H D Bird and N J Prews.						Umpires: H D Bird and N J Prews.									
Second Test: Old Trafford August 9-14; Third Test: The Oval August 23-28.						Second Test: Old Trafford August 9-14; Third Test: The Oval August 23-28.						Second Test: Old Trafford August 9-14; Third Test: The Oval August 23-28.									

FIRST TEST HIGHLIGHTS

ENGLAND'S victory over India at Lord's produced a feast of records, most of them for their captain Graham Gooch (Richard Lockwood writes).

- He is the first batsman to make a triple century and a century in the same first-class match.
- His match aggregate of 456 was the best in Test history and the second best in first-class cricket.
- Gooch's 333 was the highest score made against India, the third highest Test score by an Englishman, and the sixth best overall.
- It was also the highest score in first-class matches at Lord's.

- Gooch became the first batsman to score five Test hundreds at Lord's.
- His first-innings partnership of 308 for the third wicket with Allan Lamb was a record for any wicket for England v India, and his second-innings partnership of 204 with Mike Atherton was the best opening partnership for England v India.
- England's first innings score of 663 for four declared was their best against India and their best at Lord's.
- Kapil Dev became the first player to hit four successive sixes in an over in a Test match.
- The match aggregate of 1,663 runs was a record for Tests at Lord's.

'Nothing wicket' plays its part in epic Bedi attacks with hostile declaration

By JOHN WOODCOCK

THERE is a moral in this, and it is worth heeding. Last weekend, the Lord's pitch was given a low rating by the England manager and described as "a nothing wicket" by Ray Illingworth. Even the Lord's groundsman said he would welcome the chance to do some fairly radical work on the square.

How come, then, that the Test match which finished yesterday was one of the most spectacular for years? I will tell you how. It was partly because it was such a good pitch. Batsmen could bat on it, and bowlers had to sweat for their wickets.

It is a help, of course, to have more life than there was, but it is still perfectly possible to have a genuinely fine game

without it as long as the players' attitudes are propitious.

The trouble with bouncy pitches is that they encourage persistent short-pitched bowling: the trouble with grassy ones is that they reward mediocrity. Micky Stewart said on Saturday that it was "hard work [at Lord's] to bowl sides out twice". But surely it should be in a Test match.

Fraser had a good game because he bowled very well and pitched the ball up; Malcolm had a disappointing one partly because bludgeoning did not pay. To me, it was a relief that batsmen were not constantly having their fingers rapped. Usually, these days, the pain-killing spray would be best kept in the umpire's

pocket. Now, for once, it was not needed.

There was much about this match that was agreeably old-fashioned. It had aspects in common with the Lord's Test of 1930, generally considered to be one of the best ever played. That, also, was during a season in which pitches were considered to be much too easy. Lord's was no exception but the Test there was still a great one.

When India were beaten at 3pm yesterday, on the last afternoon of five, 1,603 runs had been scored in the match at a rate of 4.06 an over. Sixty years ago, 1,601 runs had come at 3.15 an over when Australia won after tea on the last evening of four.

Rather than being used as an excuse to have an un-

satisfactory match, the pitch on each occasion was the reason for an exceptional one.

In the end, yesterday, the better side won but India, as well as England, had been prepared to put their fortunes to the test. We had a glimpse, however fleeting it may prove to have been, of the promised land, and not everyone does that.

For the moment, too, we have a winning England side, and that has to be good news. Much of the credit for it belongs to Gooch. This was his match. He had an astonishing game and, if the runs he scored seemed at times to be rather cheap, there is nothing new in that.

When Denis Compton made his 278 against Pakistan at Trent Bridge in 1934, the

last 187 of them came in two hours five minutes. He, too, had been dropped at the wicket - when he was 20.

Compton was doing so much as he pleased late in the afternoon of the second day, that, although he had got no further than 185 at tea, there was already talk during the interval of his beating Len Hutton's 364 that evening.

"I want to leave them [Pakistan] an hour's batting tonight," David Sheppard, who was captaining England, said. "So you've got 50 minutes in which to make another 180."

Times like this are sent in return for what you may have suffered at the hands of Miller and Lindwall or, in Gooch's case, of Ambrose and Alder-

man.

BISHEN Bedi, the team manager of the Indian touring side, yesterday took the extraordinary step of issuing an open letter to his former team-mate, Sunil Gavaskar, denouncing his decision to refuse honorary membership of MCC (Alan Lee writes).

Even as his players were heading towards defeat in the opening Cornhill Test at Lord's, Bedi was distributing copies of his acid letter around the press box. In it he informed Gavaskar: "You have proven that only the mighty can be petty."

Bedi added: "You have undone all your deeds at one stroke by ridiculing the greatest institution of cricket in the world. I feel personally quite

disgusted and ashamed I ever played cricket with you and, like so many cricketers I have met in the last few days, I wonder what kind of person you are."

Gavaskar, whose refusal was provoked by what he felt to be rude and inhospitable treatment by MCC staff at Lord's over a period of years, decided to say nothing.

These two greats of the Indian game have conducted an ongoing feud in recent years and Gavaskar has publicly criticised Bedi's management in his newspaper column. Only this week, he called for him to resign for failing to support Azharuddin's decision to field first. Bedi has retaliated fast.

Aldershot wound up in High Court

By DENNIS SIGNY

ALDERSHOT Football Club, which finished second from bottom in the fourth division last season, was yesterday compulsorily wound up in the High Court. In shutting down the club Mr Justice Morritt described it as "hopelessly insolvent" with debts approaching £500,000.

Although there was talk last night of the club having seven days to appeal against the decision, Colin Hancock, the chairman, said: "It is depressingly bad." The Football League is waiting for Aldershot to confirm its inability to fulfil fixtures but while the League's management committee has the option to replace the club, the GM Vauxhall Conference season starts on August 18.

Although Colchester United last night intimated a wish to regain the fourth division place they lost at the end of last season at Aldershot's expense, a League spokesman said it was likely that the League would operate with 91 clubs.

Aldershot is the first League club to drop out through debt since the Accrington Stanley, who were bottom of the fourth division in March, 1962, and resigned because of debts of £60,000. Eleven clubs have lost their League status since the Second World War - New Brighton, Gateshead, Accrington, Bradford Park Avenue, Barrow, Workington, Southport, Lincoln City, Newport County, Darlington and Colchester. Lincoln and Darlington both regained their status after winning promotion at the first